

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LV.]

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BIRTHS.

*On the 15th June, at Shanghai, the wife of Major R. SOUTHEY, 30th Baluchis, of a son.
On the 15th June, at Tanglin, Singapore, the wife of Captain C. M. O'REILLY, 3rd M.L.I., of a daughter.
On the 17th June, at 199, Bubbling Well Road, Shanghai, the wife of ERICH WILLKOMM, of a daughter.
On the 19th June, at 14, Whangpoo Road, Shanghai, the wife of A. W. DANFORTH, of a daughter.
On the 23rd June, at Lewknor, Mount Gough, Peak, the wife of MARCUS WARRESLADE, Barrister-at-law, of a daughter.
On the 25th June, at No. 6, Moreton Terrace, Shaikwan Road, the wife of A. F. RAMSEY, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 14th June, at H. I. G. M.'s Consulate, and afterwards at the German Church, Shanghai, PAUL WESTENDORFF, to ANITA COHRS, both of Hamburg.
On the 18th June, at St. Joseph's Church, Shanghai, by the Rev. Father Kennelly, S.J., LESLIE HANSARD, the eldest son of Dr. J. E. GARR, of London, England, to SOPHIE, the eldest daughter of D. BEALE, of S.S. Sanuki Maru.

DEATHS.

On the 13th June, at Chefoo, ELLEN, wife of JAMES F. BROMPTON, of the China Inland Mission, Shanghai.
On the 22nd inst., at 5.26 a.m., at "Belvoir," Wanchai Road, GEORGE AUGUSTUS TATLER, at one time Captain of the China and Manila S. S. Co.'s s.s. *Emeralda*, aged 50 years.
At Shanghai, Walter Tudway, last surviving son of the late A. C. PHIPPS, of Whitstone, Shepton Mallet, aged 56 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAIL.

The American mail of the 27th May arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Coptic*, on the 24th June (28 days); and the German mail of the 27th May arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Sachsen*, on the 25th June (29 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The event of the week of course has been the illness of King Edward. Particulars of the local reception of the news, alterations of arrangements, etc., will be found on pp. 482-484.

The China Coronation contingent, including Hongkong's representatives, arrived in England on the 23rd instant.

It is now settled that a sixth regiment of Native Infantry from India shall be included in the reliefs for China. The regiment selected is the 14th Bombay Infantry.

Bishop Innocente has been appointed chief of the Russian Orthodox Mission at Peking. A sum of £16,500 has been granted to the Bishop to restore the Mission, and the maintenance grant has been doubled.

The Diplomatic Corps at Peking on the 14th inst. arranged the final distribution of the £15,450,000 War Indemnity, by reducing in proportion the claims of each of the interested States. This agreement was made unanimously.

Baron Komura, Japanese Foreign Minister, has notified that the agreement relating to a Japanese settlement in Masampo, Corea, which has been signed by the representatives of the two countries, has been ratified, and will come into effect immediately.

A Japanese paper states that, as the reports of the Chinese Government respecting the situation in Kwangsi are regarded as very untrustworthy, officers will shortly be sent by the Japanese General Army Staff Department to report on the situation in the province.

The Chinese cruiser *Kai-Chih* was blown up at her moorings at Hsiakwan, near Nanking, at 12.30 on the 22nd instant. About 150 lives were lost. The catastrophe was due to the explosion of a powder-magazine. The *Kai-Chih* was a cruiser of 2,110 tons and 1,600 i.h.p. Built in 1882, she carried two 8.2 in., six 5.9 in., and eleven smaller guns, and her speed was 14.5 knots.

Lord Cranborne, answering a question by Sir Charles Dilke in the House of Commons on the 23rd, declined to make a statement as to the attitude of the individual representatives of the Powers in the matter of the evacuation of Tientsin. The *London Daily News*, referring to the delay in the withdrawal of the troops, says that the policy of dishonestly procrastinating in this way is not helping to regenerate China.

A correspondent telegraphs from Chengtu, Szechuen, that the Boxer propaganda has been proceeding steadily in the district since February. On the 17th June the Yungshien mission station was destroyed and a Methodist preacher (presumably a native) and nine members of the mission were beheaded. The Chungking correspondent of the *North-China Daily News* telegraphs that an insurrection has broken out in the sub-prefecture of Tzechou, in the same province. The officials are helpless, and matters are serious.

The Far Eastern Honours at present announced are a baronetcy for Sir Thomas Jackson, a knighthood for the Hon. C. P. Chater, the G.C.M.G. for Sir Ernest Satow, the K.C.M.G. for Mr. Leham Warren, H.M. Consul at Shanghai, the C.M.G. (as well, apparently, as the Companionship of the Imperial Service Order) for the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, and the Companionship of the Imperial Service Order for Mr. W. J. Archer, H.M. Consul at Bangkok, and Mr. G. T. Hare, Secretary for Chinese Affairs, F.M.S.

According to a report made by Yung Tuk, Chinese Secretary for the Army, who was sent from Peking to Mongolia to report on the situation there, the designs of Russia in Mongolia are unmistakable. If the territory did not receive able administrators the position would be very dangerous. The above is contained in a Peking dispatch to the *Asahi*, which goes on to say that Yung Tuk spoke of the great difficulties experienced in the course of his journey through Mongolia, saying that at one time he scarcely expected to return to Peking alive.

It is reported in local mandarin circles, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, that Mr. Odagiri, Japanese Consul-General here, who has been appointed Commercial Commissioner by the Japanese Government to negotiate the new tariff with the Chinese Commercial Commissioners, Sheng Kung-pao and Lu Hai-buan, had his first formal meeting with the latter on Monday afternoon. Messrs. Taylor and Hippley, Commissioner of the I. M. Customs, were also present on the occasion, while Mr. Odagiri was accompanied by the Japanese Assistant Commercial Commissioner and an interpreter.

With reference to the so-called rebellion in Kwangsi, an European (formerly a Government servant) who is presently in the Colony after some months spent up-country, makes the statement that, although he has been resident in the very heart of the district in which the disturbances are reported to be raging, he has heard more about the trouble since coming to Hongkong than he did during his sojourn in the interior. He is stationed about 250 miles above Wuchow. There are, he says, a great many soldiers in the neighbourhood, but as for rebels they practically do not exist. Village robberies have been frequent; but these were the result of the poor being famine-stricken owing to the dry season. The only capture of "rebels" which our informant heard of was that of 24 men—not a very considerable body of insurgents, it will be admitted. The stories which found ready credence here as to the seriousness of the "outbreak" seem to have had their foundation in the imagination of the tellers.

KING EDWARD'S ILLNESS.

(Daily Press, 26th June.)

That it was with feelings of consternation that the news of King EDWARD's illness was received in the Colony yesterday morning requires no statement. As far as we know, it was REUTER's agency which first received the intelligence, and, as our readers will see in another column, the information contained was of a very grave nature, even if the latest messages were more reassuring. Private telegrams, one of which we published yesterday morning, did not so clearly intimate the seriousness of the situation. It is now known that the Coronation ceremonies which were to have been held over the whole British Empire to-day have been postponed until some date at present unsettled. What this means will be readily understood from the upset of arrangements in Hongkong alone. The official programme for to-day and the two following days has been cancelled, with the exception of the children's tea on Saturday. All that remains to mark the original date of the Coronation is the fact that the Banks and most large firms will observe the already published holidays. This, it appears, is in accordance with what has been determined on at home. In all other respects the projected festivities have been postponed until such time as King EDWARD's health is restored, as all will hope it speedily will be. In St. John's Cathedral to-day a special service of intercession will be held, and the Roman Catholic body and the Parsees have taken a similar step.

As we have said, the most recent news is of a reassuring nature, and it is earnestly to be hoped that no complications will set in to retard the King's recovery. Such an illness as that from which His Majesty is at present suffering is not to be lightly regarded in the sixty-first year of life, but the patient has the best medical attention procurable, and while his advisers speak hopefully of the case the situation is encouraging. It is, to many, no doubt, a very great disappointment that to-day's ceremony has been thus indefinitely postponed, but all personal feelings will be sunk in sympathy for the actual sufferer. What is to happen with respect to the representative contingents which have gone home from the Colonies, etc., it is impossible at the present moment to say. We shall no doubt hear with regard to such questions very shortly, but the impossibility of judging the duration of the King's indisposition may render a decision difficult.

CHINA CORONATION HONOURS

(Daily Press, 28th June.)

In spite of the fact that it has been announced in REUTER's telegrams that the Coronation Honours have been postponed—until such time, it may be presumed, as King EDWARD is able to stand the ordeal of the Coronation ceremonies—certain awards of interest to British residents in China, and in particular to those in Hongkong, have been made public. The first intimation, we believe, was received by H.E. the Officer Administering the Government very late on Wednesday night. This was to the effect that Mr. C. P. CHATER, the senior Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council here, had been knighted, and that Dr. Ho KAI, one of the two Chinese representatives on the Council, was made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. The news was published by His Excellency at a meeting called immediately after the service at St. John's Cathedral

on Thursday, when he personally congratulated Dr. Ho KAI before the Government Officials, the Members of Council, and the Coronation Committee, and also announced the honour to Mr. CHATER. The next distinction to be announced was the conferring of a baronetcy on Sir THOMAS JACKSON, who has so lately gone from our midst. Our special telegram, which arrived on Thursday night too late for publication, added the information that Sir ERNEST SATOW, His Majesty's Minister at Peking, had been created Knight Grand Cross, and Mr. PELHAM WARREN, British Consul-General at Shanghai, Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Our correspondent's despatch also confirmed the nature of the honour bestowed on Dr. Ho KAI. We have therefore a short list of five China Coronation Honours before us, three of which intimately concern Hongkong. The news, it need not be said, has given general satisfaction. There is no element of surprise in the selection, for all three who have been rewarded have been before the Hongkong public for a long period of years. It is but the other day that we were writing of Sir THOMAS JACKSON's eminent services to his own Bank and to the Colony in general, and it will be acknowledged that a baronetcy is but a fitting recognition of these on the part of the home authorities. That the talents of Mr. CHATER, who has done so much in the building up of the City of Victoria, would be recognised in some such way as they now have, has long been a freely expressed opinion, and we take the opportunity here of joining in the congratulations which have been expressed. Naturally there have been times when the schemes of Mr. CHATER have not been able to command the approval of all, but none the less we are glad to be able to wish him a long enjoyment of his new distinction. Nor can there be any doubt that when Major-General GASCOIGNE on Thursday spoke of Dr. Ho KAI's long and valuable services to the Hongkong Government and the local community, which now are recognised by the bestowal of the C.M.G., he was voicing the opinion of the Colony. The other two honours, which concern Hongkong both as part of the British Empire and as very near neighbour of the Empire of China, are also heard of with rejoicing. Sir ERNEST SATOW, in spite of his scholarly and social qualifications and his record at Tokyo, was not looked upon as an ideal man when appointed to Peking. But he has shown in many ways a firmness which has long been wanting in the British representatives at the Chinese capital, and has won for himself a regard which he can hardly have expected among British residents in China. On Mr. PELHAM WARREN's eminent merits, displayed during a crisis of utmost gravity in China, there is no necessity to enlarge. No British consul came better out of the ordeal than His Majesty's present representative at Shanghai, and it will be hoped that his present honour will be a precursor of others in the future. Whether the China Honours list will receive additions, it is not possible to say. There are some other names which will occur, no doubt, to many as deserving recognition, though it would be somewhat invidious to attempt to point to the most deserving. There is nothing to cavil at in the list now before us, as far as it goes.

The complete statistics of the Native Presbyterian Church give total contributions for 1901 as \$6,143.41. This is an advance of \$488.96 on the previous year. The number of communicants is given at 2,174. The contribution per member works out at over \$2.10.

THE CARRYING OUT OF PROFESSOR SIMPSON'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

(Daily Press, 24th June.)

Among the papers laid before the Legislative Council yesterday was one dealing with the way in which Professor SIMPSON's recommendations, as contained in his two memoranda, have been carried out. It will be of some interest to our readers to know what has actually been done, and we accordingly propose briefly to summarise the document. With regard to the destruction of rats, the number of rat-catchers has been increased from twenty-two at the end of 1901 to one hundred and thirty-two now. Four Japanese doctors, engaged for a period of six months, have been appointed for the daily bacteriological examination of rats. The poisoners are sent daily to the plague infected districts, poison and traps being freely used, while carbolic acid is poured into the rats-runs. The Chamber of Commerce was not in favour of the suggested treatment of ships, which has not therefore been adopted, but, as is well known, the Police are engaged in administering a special Ordinance with a view to the prevention of rats landing from ships. It was recommended that DANYSZ's virus should be prepared by Dr. HUNTER and distributed by the Sanitary Board; unfortunately, however, all Dr. HUNTER's apparatus was lost at sea, and duplicates have not yet arrived. With regard to human plague itself, attempts to secure the early discovery of cases are made by the employment of seven Chinese senior students of medicine, who are each accompanied in their work by a British sapper and a Chinese constable. The removal of the sick is being done by officers of the Sanitary Board and the cleansing and disinfecting is performed by a special brigade of the Board's officers. As for inoculation, the general community has not taken to it at all, "although it is offered free to all," but the rat-catchers and disinfecting staff, as well as the Medical Officer of Health, have been inoculated. The Chinese, it seems, are very averse to inoculation with Haffkine's prophylactic. The pick of the permanent officers of the Sanitary Staff have been detailed for plague duty, but it is hoped that next year there will be a special plague staff. Turning to the question of district inspection, as is already known, the Japanese doctors who were engaged in default of available Indian medical men turned out failures owing to their ignorance of English, and only two out of six have been retained, being employed now in bacteriological work. We gather therefore that the division of the city into districts, each under a medical man and a sanitary inspector, has been abandoned, the inspection being carried on by the Chinese students above mentioned. Professor SIMPSON recommended a medical inspection of arrivals from Canton and Macao. This is carried out only as regards Macao, the less important place. Finally, several private hospitals, with Chinese doctors and nurses, have been sanctioned in accordance with Professor SIMPSON's advice.

We come now to the recommendations of the second memorandum, which deals not with plague alone but with the general sanitary condition of Hongkong. Naturally we cannot expect to find much already done to meet the view of the expert. The revision of the Building Ordinance soon comes before the Government in the Bill which we discussed recently. Much work is involved in the recommended separation

of the sewer and storm-water channel flushing system from the ordinary water-supply. Certain reservoirs require practical reconstruction before they can be covered in accordance with the advice in the memorandum. Efforts are already concentrated in plague-prevention while sanitary improvements are being gradually effected. A system of weekly bulletins from consuls in South China, medical missionaries, and the Maritime Customs was suggested, and such bulletins have been asked for. The medical inspection of vessels arriving in Hongkong from the Chinese coast, and the systematic destruction of rats on steamers and junks, as we have seen, have not yet been arranged for, owing to the opposition to the proposals. The emigration question has so far been dealt with that everything is in train for registration and the notice published, but no licenses have yet been applied for; certain points involve the bye-laws which are still under consideration. The dumping of dead bodies is "not yet stopped"; this is unfortunately only too familiar a fact. The Executive Council decided that the inhabitants of the streets should not be made responsible or fined. Instead a reward of \$10 was to be offered for each authentic living case of plague reported by a Chinese. We are not told what effect this has had. Several thousands of handbills have been distributed, as recommended, but the conference of Chinese doctors has been deemed of little use. The advice with regard to rats has been carried out for the most part, as can be seen from the answer to the first memorandum. The isolation question has been dealt with to this extent, that the Government has rented for people displaced from plague-infected houses several large blocks of new buildings, which are daily visited and inspected. These people are not kept prisoners but allowed to go to work, and shop-keepers have been given ground-floors for the continuance of their business. With reference to the appointment of a special plague staff, no arrangements have yet been made, and all that has been done is to relieve the Medical Officer of Health of a good deal of clerical work to which he formerly attended. However, the remarks on the recommendation in the first memorandum must be borne in mind. Finally, the larger sanitary questions and the matters of house-construction and the sale of land will be dealt with by the new Bill and are consequently not discussed in the paper before us. It will be seen that though certain measures have been adopted in accordance with Professor SIMPSON's recommendations and a few rejected in deference to influential opposition, the bulk of the work still remains to be done.

HONGKONG HARBOUR CONTROL.

(Daily Press, 23rd June.)

A consideration of the finding of the Marine Court of Enquiry on the sinking of the steamship *Pakshan* in the Harbour on the night of the 2nd instant inevitably brings us to the conclusion that the errors of omission and commission of all concerned were great indeed. It seems hardly credible that such a vessel—an iron steamer of 1,235 tons register—could, in the crowded Harbour of Hongkong, be slowly but surely subsiding to the bottom from 7 p.m. until midnight without some outside assistance being called for. Yet, to quote the finding of the Court, "no signals were made to attract attention and no application made to the ships close by for assistance." The first intimation which the shore police received of what was happening to the *Pakshan* was

brought by one of the Chinese sailors who swam off in a panic and on landing reported the matter at No. 7 Police Station. The Marine Court expressed its astonishment at the want of resource shown and found it "difficult to imagine not being able in Hongkong to engage the services of almost any number of steam-launches at almost any hour." But the Court does not allude directly to the matter of the Water Police, whereas we are of the opinion (which we find supported by experienced captains acquainted with this Harbour) that our Water Police are sadly deficient. It is possible to go about the Harbour for hours without seeing a police launch. There is a large and ever increasing shipping business in Hongkong Harbour, and we certainly think that there should be more constant police supervision than there is at present. The Fairway channels require more attention than they get from the police, and a clear passage should be provided for the Star Ferry service. Native junks should not be allowed to anchor so as to impede the passage of steamers, and cargo-boats should not be permitted to moor three hundred feet outside the Praya wall. The traffic in this Harbour requires regulating just the same as our street-traffic, or rather more so. We have seen vessels in collision for an hour, in broad daylight and in the centre of the Harbour. We have seen a vessel on fire for half of an hour before the arrival of the police. All this is not as it should be and the sooner it is remedied the better for all concerned. One step in the right direction, we consider, would be the transfer of the duty of policing the Harbour from the Captain Superintendent of Police to the Harbour Master. The Captain Superintendent has quite as much work as he can deal with on land and cannot attend efficiently to the Water Police department. It may be said that the Harbour Master, too, is a busy man, to whose duties we should not add. But with a better organised Water Police force the extra work would not be serious, and we should have the sensible arrangement, which we can see at Singapore, of the Harbour control being under one head, not as now in Hongkong partly vested in the Harbour Master and partly in the Captain Superintendent of Police. But, whether this be done or not, it is plain that the Water Police require reorganisation. We have had energetic chiefs of the Police force for some years, and yet this one branch of the force seems entirely inadequate for the discharge of its duties. Such a state of affairs is not creditable to the third largest shipping port in the world.

THE "FOREIGN COMMUNITY."

(Daily Press, 24th June.)

The letter which appeared in our correspondence column yesterday under the heading of "The Foreign Community" was by no means an uncalled for protest, for it is certainly an error of judgement for any resident in this Colony, whatever be his race, to speak of the "foreign" as opposed to the Chinese community in Hongkong. This being a British colony, certainly the last to be described as "foreigners" are any British subjects. The subdivisions of the population as given in certain official documents are "British," "Foreign," and "Chinese," and though "British and Foreign" is a conjunction used, for instance, in the monthly death-returns, this is merely on account of the vast numerical preponderance of the Chinese compared with the other residents of

Hongkong. It is undoubtedly a fact that all Chinese who are not British subjects are as much foreigners here as a Russian or any other subject of a Continental European nation. A certain amount of confusion naturally arises from the use of the term "native" as synonymous with "Chinese"—a convenient but misleading usage. However, the really important point in connection with the recent meeting of certain wealthy Chinese to discuss the Public Health, etc., Bills is not an error of description, but the possibility that too much importance may be attached in certain official circles to the opposition to the new Bills. Those who met at the Chinese Commercial Union's premises on the 19th inst. will not, we think, object to the statement that they represent the Chinese landlord class, nor yet can they take exception to the criticism that they do not represent the Chinese community in Hongkong as a whole. Whatever dislike, therefore, to the Bills is expressed by them or by non-Chinese landlords must be considered in the light of the fact that their personal and pecuniary interest is affected by the new proposals. The question then naturally arises: Do the best interests of the landlord class necessarily conflict with measures aiming at the improvement of the public health? We should be loth to think so. In any case, it cannot be denied that the lives and welfare of the community are paramount in importance. It is impossible for the Government to uphold a system which fosters overcrowding and disease. It is open for the property-owners to prove that injustice is being done them by forcing upon them alterations in their properties which they had no reasonable grounds for expecting to have to make. It must be remembered that the question of compensation is not neglected in the proposed measures. By all means therefore let the matter be threshed out, as Mr. LAU CHU PAK asked on the 19th instant, and public opinion be taken; but do not let us attach undue weight to the expressions of those who by their positions are able to make themselves best heard.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES.

(Daily Press, 21st June.)

There is no reason to believe that the President and people of the United States are other than sincere in their desire to clear out of the Philippines, "as soon as the islanders are in a condition to establish self-government." The States have well and nobly carried out their promise of restoring autonomy to Cuba, although the temptation to retain it was strong, stronger indeed than usually actuates sovereign states which have by chance got hold of a slice of promising territory. The people of the States have been scandalised recently by certain measures which their commanders have apparently found it necessary to take, and which in the light we possess seem to have savoured of a return to pristine barbarity. We are not going either to apologise for or to condemn these measures, because we know absolutely nothing of them, except the apparently exaggerated reports which have been assiduously put forward by a section of the American press; and we know that the popular demand for brevity, provided that that brevity be highly spiced with transcendental language, has led to the growth of a volcanic type of writing, which it would be folly on the part of a plain Englishman to attempt to understand. The fact, however, remains that, with the best intentions,

the United States in a moment of enthusiasm took upon themselves to cure the evils and scandals which nearly four centuries of misdirected spiritual government have brought on the Philippines; and they have found the task a much more difficult one than in their first moments of enthusiasm they thought possible. The four years which have elapsed since on May-Day morning Admiral Dewey entered Manila Bay have been fruitful in lessons to the American people; and the lessons have impressed on ourselves, on more than one occasion that, while it is a comparatively easy matter to destroy a government, the task of re-edification is one that calls for the highest skill of the trained statesman. On that task with regard to the Philippines the United States Government has just entered, and it seems premature that, before almost the first rung of the ladder has been reached, prominence should be given to the intention of the States to clear out. To us as Englishmen it seems to bear too close a relation to the policy of "scuttle" which has brought so many troubles on ourselves, and has resulted in the drawn out and exhausting war in South Africa; and, warned ourselves by experience, we would like to see the event of restoration made a little less prominent.

Speaking plainly, while we are ready to acknowledge that the condition of the Philippines has steadily ameliorated under United States administration, none of the great questions at stake can be considered as past the experimental stage. The great evil of the Spanish occupation was the sensible weakness with which the Government permitted the entire administration to pass into the hands of the "religious" orders. We are here in face of a problem, not of theology or orthodoxy, but of plain civil administration. The evils of what is incorrectly called a theocracy are that it of necessity hands over the government to the most selfish and uncontrollable of administrations; and this has proved the case not alone in modern times, or where communities have made profession of Christianity, but ascends to the very beginnings of history, on the banks of the Nile. Not only over the fortunes but over the morals of the islanders has the rule of the ecclesiastics in the Philippines been disastrous; and one of the avowed objects of the occupation was to get rid of the incubus which was bringing the whole colony down to a level even lower than that in which the Spaniards found it. The first effect of the United States occupation was that many of the orders found it more politic to leave the country than to remain. Religious toleration is, however, one of the fundamental principles of the United States constitution, and finding that they were personally safe there has been a tendency for the members of the orders to return. Although the orders will not, as long as the United States continue in possession, have the assistance of the law to enable them to carry on the work of becoming the sole landlords of the country, the orders themselves are there ready to take advantage of the first sign of weakness to return to their old games. The Filipinos are, besides, ignorant of the first principles of political economy, so that in spite of the improvements which have taken place those who are best disposed towards the people themselves are hardly prepared to concur in the judgment that the Filipinos are in a position to solve the difficulties of self-government. On the whole, looking calmly and dispassionately at the position, we are forced to the belief that the withdrawal of the controlling hand of the United States would be fraught with

evil to the cause of civilisation; and this quite irrespective of the financial aspect of the case. While therefore we are compelled to admire the conscientious efforts of the United States to free themselves from the reproach of having invaded the Philippines for the more sake of territorial aggrandisement, we equally believe that the well-meant desire of retirement is premature, and would not only result in difficulties, in the way of the States themselves, but be destructive of the germs of improvement already planted in the soil.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE CORONATION.

Just when the people of Hongkong were busily completing their preparation for the Coronation celebrations and looking forward with pleasurable anticipation to the advent of festivities, all hands were stayed and everyone's heart was grieved by the distressing news that the state of His Majesty King Edward's health was such as to necessitate the indefinite postponement of the Coronation. The sad news formed the one topic of conversation on Wednesday. In the early forenoon when the tidings were still fresh there was much speculation as to what would be done in view of the King's illness: would the celebrations go on or would the whole programme of festivities be cancelled? In most cases the structures destined for decorative purposes—arches, illuminated designs, etc.—as well as the many huge matcheds for the accommodation of spectators, were just receiving the finishing touches when the news of the postponement arrived; all the arrangements were in a most satisfactorily forward state; and the celebrations promised to be in every way successful and splendid. The sorrow with which the message telling of His Majesty's indisposition was received was therefore all the more poignant. On every side one heard expressions of the deepest anxiety for the Sovereign's welfare and earnest hopes for his speedy restoration to health. The reassuring telegrams which continued to come in later in the day with reference to the King's state, served however, to allay the general alarm. Though no official information had so far been received by the Government, His Excellency General Gascoigne convened a meeting of the Executive and Legislative Councils at half-past twelve o'clock, a full report of which will be found below. In the result, it was decided to postpone the Coronation celebrations indefinitely and to hold an intercessional service in the Cathedral at 11 a.m. on Thursday. The only item of the programme which stood was the Children's Tea on Saturday.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING.

TELEGRAM OF SYMPATHY

A special meeting of the Executive and Legislative Councils was held at 12.30 p.m. for the purpose of considering what steps should be taken in view of the news of His Majesty's illness. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, Major-General Sir W. GASCOIGNE, K.C.M.G. (Commanding the Troop).

Hon. F. H. MAY (Colonial Secretary).
Hon. Sir HENRY SPENCER BRIDGEMAN, K.B. (Attorney-General).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).
Hon. Commander R. M. RUMSEY, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. F. J. BADELEY (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. C. S. SHARP.

Hon. C. W. DICKSON.

Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR.

Hon. R. SHEWAN.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

Rev. G. A. BUNBURY (Acting Chaplain, St. John's Cathedral).

HIS EXCELLENCY—Gentlemen of the Council, I have summoned you here to-day on a most painful matter. Little did we think when we last met here and were looking forward with joyful anticipations to the Coronation celebrations—which I may here say, owing to the indefatigable exertions of the members of the Coronation Committee, would, I think you will agree with me, have been a credit to this rising Colony—little did we then think that the next time that I should summon you would be for the purpose of discussing the question of their postponement. Gentlemen, I may tell you that I have so far received no official communication whatever—none from the Colonial Office, none from the Horse Guards, none from the Admiralty—all I am in possession of is what you yourselves equally know—Reuter's telegrams. The first one simply says that the Coronation has been postponed indefinitely owing to His Majesty's indisposition. The next one tells us that the King is suffering from perityphlitis and that a surgical operation is rendered necessary. The next one speaks of the operation being fixed for 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon and that His Majesty has issued a notice expressing his deep sorrow at the postponement of the Coronation celebrations in London, and it is His Majesty's earnest hope that the celebrations in the provinces and that the dinners to the poor will not be deferred. That is only like His Majesty's well-known consideration; he thought, even in the midst of his illness, of the poor. The next telegram speaks of the operation having been successfully performed, that the King bore the operation well, and that his condition is satisfactory. Now, gentlemen, I want to put the matter to you and I will be guided entirely by your opinion. The way I shall put the matter will be this: If everything goes, as God knows I hope it may go, satisfactorily, later on there will be such a celebration of the King's Coronation when he is restored to perfect health, which God grant he may be, there will be such a celebration of his Coronation that will make the whole British Empire rejoice, even although we in Hongkong continue to hold the celebrations arranged for to-morrow and the two following days. Again, gentlemen, we are men, and we must look at both sides of the question. If, which God forbid may be the case, further news do not go well and we elected to hold these Coronation celebrations, would not the soul be knocked out of them entirely if this word of doom which is hanging over us were felt the whole time? I wish to leave the matter entirely to your judgment, knowing well that I can rely most implicitly upon your opinion.

Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR—Your Excellency, speaking personally, I wish to say that I do not think that any celebration should be held in the next few days, but however much one might wish to avoid it I think it would be necessary to have the two days still as holidays, the reason being that there might be legal complications in connection with the due dates of bills. Bills are only due on Saturday and it might be awkward. There might be questions arising legally which it would be better to avoid. I believe the Chinese have made full arrangements for having no work done during the next few days and it will be no use leaving the offices open. At the same time, while you have the offices two days closed, there will be no occasion to have any celebration.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—Sir, I think all the members of this Council and I am sure also the public in general in this Colony must have received the sad news which Reuter have transmitted to us to-day concerning the King with the deepest concern and sympathy, and I think even if we were to decide to go on with the Coronation celebrations, I am afraid that our hearts would be weighed down so much by the news and anxiety and with our sympathy with our most gracious King that we should not in the least enjoy the celebrations; and I think that enjoyment is what the celebration of the Coronation is for. But with our Sovereign the King lying in a dangerous state of health—although the latest telegram says the operation is successful he is, as your Excellency says, in an uncertain condition of health—I think it is only showing our true heartfelt respect to have the entire celebrations postponed; the holidays of course

may go on. I know for one that during the two days, whether we have holidays or not, we will most anxiously await news informing us of the condition of the King, and we all pray and hope that the news in the next few days will be most satisfactory and that it will occasion general pleasure in knowing that God has through His kindness preserved to us our Monarch.

Hon. C. S. SHARP—Your Excellency, I think that the words are scarcely necessary and indeed would almost fail to express the feelings of grief and sorrow that must be prevailing over the whole Empire and also this small portion of that Empire at the news which has reached us about the serious illness of our gracious Sovereign King Edward. Suffice it to say that, as we were prepared to celebrate the event which was to come off to-morrow with gladness and all manner of rejoicings, so also do we now feel the sad tidings which have come over by telegram, and I think it would be, to say the least, unseemly for this community to observe in any way excepting in sorrow the holidays that have been set apart for this. I have not had time to personally consult my colleagues in the Chamber of Commerce as regards the holidays beyond a short conversation with the Vice-President, and if it is worth while having our expression of opinion I may say that we are both perfectly agreed as to, if not the advisability, the possibility of postponing these holidays altogether. I think this community will await with the utmost anxiety the news that will come about our gracious Sovereign and we all sincerely hope and trust that the news will be good news.

His EXCELLENCY then put the question as to whether the Coronation celebrations should be postponed indefinitely.

The meeting unanimously agreed that they should be postponed.

His EXCELLENCY—The next question I wish to put to you is whether the holidays before arranged shall continue or not.

It was agreed that the holidays as already arranged should be held.

His EXCELLENCY—There is another matter that I think we might discuss here to-day. I think, if may be allowed to say so, that your judgment on it will be absolutely wise and correct. I should propose this, that if later on in the day I were to receive a telegram out of kindness of the King's heart requesting the Coronation celebrations should go on, I should still propose to adhere to the decision we have just arrived at. Coronation celebrations are not all entirely in our hands. Of course I might be ordered as a soldier, or as the Commodore might be ordered as a sailor, to fire a salute; and in that case, I should obey orders, but with regard to the rest of the celebrations proposed, like the unveiling of the statue, the opening of the Park, and the Review, I should still, subject to your approval, adhere to your decision. Does that meet with your approval?

This proposal was agreed to.

His EXCELLENCY—Well, now, gentlemen, I am to ask your opinion on another point. You know we had arranged to have an impressive Divine service to-morrow in celebration of the Coronation. That, like everything else, is unfortunately postponed. What do you say to having an official service of intercession to-morrow, and to make it convenient to you and the public generally, if you think well of it, can you signify to me at what hour it would be most convenient for you and I could arrange that such a service should be held? It might be held if you like in the cool of the evening at 5.30, or it might take the place of the service which is unfortunately now postponed. I would like your advice and opinion on that point.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—The suggestion of your Excellency is an excellent one, and I am sure it will meet with general approval. Dr. Ho Kai then suggested that the service be held at the same hour as that originally intended.

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY—Sir, far be it from me to make any suggestion contrary to what your Excellency has suggested. But as you stated early in your speech, we have had no official communication on the subject at present, and it occurs to me that it might be rather going a little bit too quickly if any official service were held. I think it would be a very fitting thing indeed to have a service, but it would be better to wait until your Excellency receives

some official intimation. It might perhaps be as well to postpone any official notice of such a service. I merely throw this out as a suggestion. I am not looking at it in any spirit of opposition.

Hon. C. S. SHARP—I think, sir, as there can be no possible doubt as to the serious state of health in which our Sovereign now is, any intercessional service would not be out of place.

It was unanimously agreed to hold an official service for intercessional prayer at 11 o'clock this forenoon in S. John's Cathedral.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Gentlemen, the matter has been suggested to me—I think it is a very good suggestion—and I propose subject to your approval, that a telegram be sent on your behalf and on behalf of the community expressing our heartfelt sorrow at the news that has been received to-day, showing our sympathy and asking for the earliest news. I have hardly had time to draft the words.

Some discussion ensued as to the wording of the telegram.

HIS EXCELLENCY afterwards moved that the Councils send the following telegram:—“The Executive and Legislative Councils of Hongkong have heard with great sorrow the news of His Majesty's illness. On behalf of the entire community they express the earnest prayer of His Majesty's loyal and devoted subjects in this Colony that the King may shortly be restored to health, and wait further news with deepest anxiety.”

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—I beg to second the proposal to send this telegram. I think it is very fitting that instead of the congratulatory telegram, the telegram should be sent informing His Majesty of our anxiety to get news of His Majesty's health.

The Council agreed to the motion.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The Councils stand adjourned.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following notifications were published in a special Gazette late on Wednesday afternoon:—“Notwithstanding that the Coronation celebrations have been postponed in consequence of the sad news received to-day of the illness of His Most Gracious Majesty the King, the public holidays ordered for 26th and 27th instant are not cancelled. The holiday in Government offices on the 28th is cancelled by order of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government. A service of intercession on behalf of His Majesty King Edward VII will be held in S. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, at 11 a.m., on Thursday, 26th June, 1902. A similar service in the Chinese language will also be held in the Cathedral at 2 p.m. on 26th June.”

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.

Subsequently the following telegram was received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, through the Governor of Singapore, to the Officer Administering the Government of Hongkong, dated Singapore, 25th June, 1902:—

“It is with the deepest regret that I have to inform you that I have received this morning the following official intimation:—(Begins) ‘The King is suffering from perityphlitis: his condition on Saturday was so satisfactory he was hoping that with care His Majesty the King would be able to go through the Coronation Ceremony, but on Monday evening a recrudescence became manifest, rendering surgical operation necessary: to-day the Coronation Ceremony therefore postponed.’ (Ends).”

“I will telegraph at once further intelligence both as to King's health and as to arrangements made with regard to festivities.”

INTERCESSIONAL SERVICES.

Owing to the intelligence concerning the health of His Majesty the King, the contemplated celebrations for the Coronation did not take place on Thursday. Instead, intercessional services were held in S. John's Cathedral, the Union Church, the Roman Catholic Cathedral, the Parsee Club, and the Jewish Synagogue. The decorations which had been put up were in many cases taken down, and the rest are now

mostly in process of demolition. The only decoration that was carried out was the huge living-picture design of “God Save the King” which appeared on the side of H. M. S. *Terrible* shortly after ten o'clock: this we understand, was only done in order to secure a photographic record of the event. In Chinatown, the celebrations went on as arranged.

SERVICE IN S. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL.

An official service of intercession was held in S. John's Cathedral at eleven o'clock which all the leading citizens and the senior naval and military officers attended. Besides His Excellency Sir William J. Gascoigne, K.C.M.G., the Officer Administering the Government, and Lady Gascoigne, there were present Commodore Robinson, R.N.; Colonel Hon. R. H. Bertie; Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary; Hon. Sir H. Spencer Berkeley, K.B. Attorney-General; Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works; Hon. A. M. Thomson, Colonial Treasurer; Hon. R. Murray Rumsey, R.N., Harbour Master; Hon. F. J. Badesley, Captain Superintendent of Police; Hon. Dr. Ho Kai; Hon. Wei A. Yuk; Colonel Brown, C.R.E.; Major Hamilton, D.A.A.G.A.; Major Denny, D.A.A.G.B.; and other staff officers; Commander G. W. W. Dawes, R.N.; Officers of the Japanese and Portuguese Navies; Hon. C. S. Sharp, Hon. R. G. Shewan, Hon. G. W. F. Playfair, Messrs E. Hewett, E. H. Sharp, M. S. Northcote, H. N. Mody, W. H. Wickham, G. Stewart, W. Prate, Fung Wa Chuen, A. J. Raymond, D. M. Moses, Messrs. B. C. Wilcox, D. E. Brown, E. Osborne, Captain the Hon. H. W. Trefusis, A.D.C., Mr. R. F. Johnston, and others. Red, white and blue ensigns were hung in the centre of the Cathedral, and above the altar were displayed a Royal ensign and an Admiral's flag. Upon the arrival of His Excellency and suite the choristers entered the chancel and took their seats, followed by Rev. Archdeacon W. Banister; Rev. E. J. Hardy, Chaplain to H.M. Forces; Rev. E. H. Good, Naval Chaplain; Rev. G. A. Bunbury, Acting Chaplain, S. John's; Rev. C. H. Hickling, Union Church; Rev. C. Bone, Wesleyan Missionary Society; Rev. T. W. Pearce, London Missionary Society; Rev. J. H. France and Rev. T. Wright, St. Peter's; Rev. C. L. Wally; Rev. C. D. Cousins, London Missionary Society; and Rev. A. Anderson. The service commenced with the singing of a verse of the National Anthem. This was followed by the Litany, which was rendered to the Ferial setting. The first lesson, Isaiah XXXVIII, was read by Rev. T. W. Pearce, after which special prayers were offered, from the office for the Visitation of the Sick. The Rev. C. H. Hickling read the second lesson. Rev. Archdeacon Banister preached an eloquent sermon, urging the necessity for prayer for the restoration to health of the Sovereign. After a hymn, the Benediction was pronounced, and the service concluded with Stainer's Sevenfold Amen. The service was of a simple but most impressive character, the only choral parts being the Litany, the short anthem and the hymns. The anthem was composed as an introit for the Coronation Service by Mr. A. G. Ward, and is a very pleasing composition. It may be mentioned that the choir had worked hard in preparation for the Coronation service, which had to be put off. At the close of the service, His Excellency spoke to Mr. A. G. Ward, the organist, and congratulated him upon the excellence of the music, and Hon. R. Murray Rumsey on the decoration of the church. An unfortunate incident occurred during the Litany: an iron wheel, part of the mechanism of the pulpit, fell from its position and struck the Hon. C. W. Dickson on the head, causing such injuries that the hon. gentleman had to be carried out of the Cathedral. Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, who was sitting near, rendered prompt assistance.

At the close of the service His Excellency called together the Government officials, the unofficial members of Council and the members of the Coronation Committee in the Choir Vestry and intimated that he had received two telegrams from the Colonial Office, one intimating that the honour of knighthood had been conferred upon Mr. C. P. Chater, and the other that the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai had been appointed a Companion of the Order of S. Michael, and S. George. His Excellency shook hands with Dr. Ho Kai, and congratulated him

upon the honour he had received from the King in recognition of his long and valuable services to the Government and the community of Hongkong.

R.C. CATHEDRAL.

The Roman Catholic subjects of His Majesty the King and also the other Roman Catholic foreigners and clergy in this Colony were not behind the others in manifesting their sympathy with the King in his illness. In conformity with the wish of H.E. the Acting Governor, an intercessional service was held at the above Cathedral at 10.30 on Thursday morning. Among those present we noticed Senhor Conselheiro Romano, Consul General for Portugal and Consul for Brazil; Chevalier Z. Volpicelli, Consul General for Italy; Mr. A. P. Marty, Consul for Spain; Mr. Nicholas Post, Consul for Austria-Hungary; the Consul for Belgium; the Consul for Peru; Mr. Leiria, Vice-consul for Brazil; several British military officers; and the commander and officers of the Portuguese gunboat *Zaire*. The congregation was a fairly large one, including the boys from the S. Joseph's College, the girls from the Italian Convent, and contingents from the Royal Navy, Royal Engineers, and the Royal Artillery. The service was purely a supplicatory one, and was short and very impressive, the whole lasting for only half an hour. It consisted of the *O Salutaris*, sung by the choir, which was followed by the Litany of All Saints recited by the clergy, a short prayer for the sick and the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the whole concluding by the choir singing the first verse of "God Save the King." The Right Rev. Bishop Piazzoli officiated, assisted by the Revs. P. de Maria, Spada and Augustin, and also all the French, Spanish and other Roman Catholic clergy in the Colony. A word of praise is due to the choir and the orchestra for their very capable rendering of the *O Salutaris*, *Tantum Ego*, and "God Save the King." Mr. O. Baptista presided at the organ and Mr. Emil Danenberg was the conductor.

PARSEE SERVICE.

A large congregation of Parsees under the auspices of the Trustees of the Parsee Charity Fund attended at their Club House in Elgin Street at 3 p.m., on Thursday afternoon, where a special service called *Jasan* was held.

After the function was over.

The PRESIDENT (Mr. H. N. Mody) said:—Gentlemen,—To-day was the day of rejoicings at the celebration of the coronation of our beloved Emperor Edward VII, but by the mysterious will of the Creator this day has been changed into a day of sorrow and concern universally caused by the sad news of the illness of our beloved sovereign. We must all surrender submissively to the Supreme will of the Almighty God, and we have all assembled here to pray to Him that our great Sovereign be soon restored to health. May the blessings of our illustrious prophet and guardian Zoroaster descend upon our beloved King the earthly protector of our race, may his speedy restoration to the full vigour of health and happiness spread rejoicings into the hearts of his subjects scattered over all parts of the globe. Under the benign aegis of the British Raj our small community has attained the foremost rank especially amongst the races of India, and may the shadow of that glorious Raj never grow less. The President then read in a most impressive manner an intercessional prayer for the speedy recovery and restoration to health of His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII. The prayer was as follows:—

Blessed be the name of Holy Abura-Mazda.

1. Almighty Abura-Mazda, Holy, Heavenly Pure, give ear, we beseech Thee, to the prayers of Thy Mazdayasnia servants, and satisfy us with Thy Mercy.

2. Vouchsafe to him, Merciful Creator, Thy love, and grant unto him, with Thy abundant grace, the spirit of heavenly piety, as also Thy spirit of wisdom for his guide and Thy arm for his strength, so that in his godliness, and in his unfeigned spirit of wisdom and strength, Justice, Truth, Peace and Love may flourish in his days to promote the well-being, solidarity and unification of his various subjects of all classes and creeds.

3. We pray unto Thee, O Merciful Mazda,

to bestow upon our illustrious Sovereign Thy choicest blessings to speedily restore him to perfect health, and endow him with many years of happy life and a just and peaceful reign resplendent with glory.

4. We supplicate Thee, O Merciful Creator, to crown the fulness of his days with the fulness of Thy divine blessings, grace and love, and receive our humble prayers. O Almighty God, that these and all Thy other gifts may be long continued, and crown him with immortality in the life to come.

5. Listen, we pray Thee, to this earnest invocation of Thy servants of the Zoroastrian faith in Hongkong, and grant us our wishes.

6. So we give Thee thanks for ever, and let our cry come unto Thee. Amen.

FESTIVITIES IN CHINATOWN.

Although the non-Chinese portion of the community in Hongkong abandoned all celebrations on the 26th June, it was felt that it would be hard to deprive the Chinese holiday-makers of all the anticipated sights, and accordingly many of the "side-shows" were all-wed just the same as if there had been no postponement of the Coronation. Anyone walking or riding through Chinatown on Thursday night would have imagined that some notable event was actually being celebrated. The triumphal arches along Queen's Road and the other streets were gaily decorated and brilliantly illuminated with lanterns, while orderly though not unobtrusive crowds of Chinese thronged the ways or stopped before temporary booths of musicians, marionettes, etc. The shops, large and small, were freely lighted up with strings of paper-lanterns and lamps, and the eating-houses appeared to be doing a great trade. From the numbers in the streets it was evident that many visitors must have come over from the mainland as sight-seers, and it is fortunate that they were not entirely disappointed. They had at least plenty of music, of the Chinese variety, and plenty of illuminations. The great flower-show building on the Praya opposite the Central Market was perhaps the most remarkable sight, and any European visitor who looked in on Thursday night was well rewarded by the spectacle, if he was stifled by the atmosphere produced by the joint action of the heat and the native mob, good tempered but pushing and decidedly trying to one at least of the senses. The display of flowers and plants was excellent and the guardian figures interspersed among them gave the peculiar touch of the grotesque which is characteristic of Chinese gardening triumphs. It was undoubtedly odd, too, to see two small coolie boys fast asleep on one of the shelves intended for flower-pots, but it served to remind the spectator that he was in Hongkong, if he needed any reminder. Altogether Chinatown on Thursday night was well worth seeing, and when the actual Coronation festivities occur sightseers might do worse than travel west of the Central Market if the Chinese decide to repeat the decorations and entertainments of Thursday.

THE MACAO BALL.

The following "express" was issued by the British community of Macao through the Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher:—

The British Community of Macao regret to have to inform their guests for the Coronation Ball that following a telegram received by the British Vice-Consul from H.E. the Governor of Hongkong they are compelled to postpone indefinitely the ball to take place on the evening of the 26th inst., owing to the illness of King Edward.

The following is from the *Shanghai Times* of the 16th inst.—Almost a continuous line of funerals passed through the heart of the town on Saturday morning from Hongkew on their way to the French Settlement. The writer counted twelve different corteges in a little over an hour passing along the Saichuen and neighbouring roads. Other districts were also freely contributing to the melancholy list; and we should think the mortality amongst the poor unenlightened natives must be running well into three figures per diem.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 23rd inst. in the Council Chamber.

Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, Major-General Sir W. GASCOIGNE, K.C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. F. H. MAY (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. A. G. WISE (Acting Attorney-General).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Commander R. M. RUMSEY, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. F. J. BADELEY (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. C. S. SHARP.

Hon. C. W. DICKSON.

Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR.

Hon. R. SHEWAN.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. G. W. F. Playfair and Mr. Robert Shewan were sworn in and took their seats as members of the Council.

QUESTION ON THE MINUTES.

The ACTING CLERK having read the minutes of last meeting.

Hon. R. SHEWAN said—Sir, With reference to the minutes which have just been read, I have to make a suggestion. I hope hon. members present will not think me presumptuous in so soon making any remark on the minutes, minutes of a meeting at which I was not present; but I should like to suggest that, when questions of hon. members are stated in full in the minutes, the replies should also be stated. It seems to me that if the questions themselves are of sufficient importance to be recorded in the minutes surely the replies to these questions must be of still greater importance. As it is at present it seems to me that the minute is valueless. I would therefore propose that the replies to the questions put by hon. members should be printed in *extenso* the same as the questions themselves.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Your proposal is to have the replies printed in the minutes?

Hon. R. SHEWAN—I refer specially to the questions put by Mr. Sharp on behalf of Mr. Whitehead. When the questions are stated in full it is only proper that the replies should be given. It seems to me that if I wished to get the reply there would be no record of that reply if I could not find it in the minutes. If it is necessary I shall propose an amendment, but in the meantime I make the suggestion.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I would beg to remind the hon. gentleman that the record, if you want to look at it, is found in the *Hansard*. The minutes of the Council are a bare record of the proceedings. If the hon. member's suggestion is adopted, it might apply to the proposing and seconding of a motion in *extenso* which is never done in a minute such as this.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—That is open to two objections. In the first place these minutes are printed in the *Government Gazette* which is circulated publicly in the Colony, and it is there that most people go for the information—not to the *Hansard*. If it is not necessary to put the replies in the minutes, I do not think it is necessary to put the questions in. I leave it to hon. members to say whether it is of any value to put in one and not the other.

The HARBOUR MASTER—The thing appears in the public prints; the questions and answers are all given.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—They are not official. The matter then dropped.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY submitted the Financial Minutes (Nos. 23, 24, 25 and 26) and moved that they be remitted to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 6), and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Supplementary Colonial Estimates, Hongkong, 1901; an Alphabetical Reference Table to Professor Simpson's Recommendations; and a Report on the Question of the Housing of the Population of Hongkong.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were submitted by the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL and read a first time:—A Bill entitled An Ordinance to further amend The New Territories Land Court Ordinance, 1900 (No. 18 of 1900); a Bill entitled An Ordinance to further amend the Law relating to Dangerous Goods; a Bill entitled An Ordinance to authorise the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of Five hundred and fifteen thousand two hundred and twenty-five Dollars and seven Cents, to defray the Charges of the Year 1901.

Referring to the last-mentioned Bill, the Hon. R. SHEWAN said—Sir, I think there should be some more specific statement of "Miscellaneous Services" than the mere figures \$253,000. The whole vote is for \$515,000, and \$253,000, which is quite half of that sum, is to be devoted to "Miscellaneous Services." No particulars are given at all. It seems a very large item in comparison with all the others.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—Full opportunity to discuss the Bill will be afforded the hon. member when it is referred to the Finance Committee.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Exactly, but I do not see the object of putting down items at all unless we are able in some way to gather what they are. Why not put down the item as \$515,000?

HIS EXCELLENCY—The full explanation of everything will come later on, when the Bill is read a second time and the Council goes into Committee and considers it clause by clause.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—It will be referred to the Finance Committee first.

The discussion then dropped.

NOTICE OF QUESTION.

Hon. G. W. F. PEAYFAIR gave notice of the following question, which he will ask at next meeting of Council—Will the Honourable Director of Public Works inform the Council what steps, if any, are being taken to carry out the recommendation of Mr. Osbert Chadwick in his report on the water supply of Hongkong, dated 18th April, 1902, especially having reference to the question of prompt action in enlarging the storage capacity, as emphasised by his following remarks:—"It is evident that the water question is pressing."—"It is one which should take precedence of all other sanitary improvements such as those of sewerage and drainage."—"It is necessary to act with promptitude."

THE MARRIAGE ORDINANCE.

In moving the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Marriage Ordinance (14 of 1875), the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL said—I have very few words to say with regard to this Bill, and the amendments are very simple. Section 9 of Ordinance 14 of 1875 is amended by striking out the words "Supreme Court House" and by inserting in lieu thereof the words "Registrar-General's Office." The table of fees I have altered in order to meet the drop in the present value of the dollar, and the words "marriage licence" are taken out, because they mean nothing at all.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Council then went into Committee on the Bill, and considered it clause by clause.

On resuming, the Bill was read a third time and passed, on the motion of the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

RELEASE OF PREMISES.

In moving the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to release certain premises situate at Victoria in the Colony of Hongkong from a settlement dated the 31st day of March, 1884, and made between Meyer Elias Sassoon of the one part and Frederick David Sassoon, Edward Elias Sassoon and the said Meyer Elias Sassoon of the other part, the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL said—In order to explain this Bill, I should have to read the whole Bill straight out. It is purely a technical measure, and as will be seen from the objects and reasons attached, Mr. Jacob Sassoon desires to make a comprehensive settlement of certain leasehold

lands in Hongkong, viz., Section B of Inland Lot No. 577, Section A of Inland Lot No. 58, and Section A of the addition to Inland Lot No. 589—upon which the new Jewish Synagogue is erected. If he can do so he will greatly benefit the Jewish community of Hongkong by spending a considerable sum of money in the erection of the building and endowing it with a repair fund. A technical difficulty exists, however, to the proposed settlement by the fact that the property is caught by the trusts of a settlement of 1884, being property purchased with the money arising from the sale of land subject to the 1884 settlement. This Ordinance releases the property in question from the 1884 settlement and so gets rid of the difficulty in question. I see no objection to the Bill, unless hon. members have heard objections outside.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Council then went into committee on the Bill, and considered it clause by clause.

On resuming, the Bill was read a third time and passed, on the motion of the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

NATURALISATION.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance for the Naturalisation of Ku Fai Shan, alias Ku Ting Kwong, alias Ku Pak Tai, alias Ku (Hong Tung), alias Ku Yuk Tsing.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Sir, I wish to enquire if this gentleman is to be naturalised under all these names or under one name only. In the former case, I think he should be naturalised under only one name, and only that name.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—As far as my experience goes, they are naturalised always under aliases.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—Sir, I think it is necessary to put all the names down. It has been the custom in this country to pass a Naturalisation Ordinance in this form, and I do not see any reasons why it should be altered.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—I suggest that in future he should be required to use one name only in his naturalisation certificate. I merely make the suggestion for the Government.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—We cannot alter Chinese manners and customs, sir, and this is one of them—that a man is naturalised under all the names he bears.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—I am making a suggestion to Government, that in future these naturalisation certificates should apply to a man under one name only. None of us use five or six aliases, and I do not see any reason why the Chinese should.

Hon. WEI A YUK—It would perhaps be better to keep all the names in but put forward one name only.

The HARBOUR MASTER—I submit, sir, that this desultory conversation is not in order. What is before the Council at the present time is the naturalisation of a certain man, not the renaming of him, and if we pass that it is as much as the Council is asked at present.

HIS EXCELLENCY—That is so.

The Bill was read a second time.

The Council then went into Committee on the bill, and considered it clause by clause.

On resuming, the Bill was read a third time and passed, on the motion of the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL TREASURER.

CHINESE ANGLICAN CHURCH.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—In moving the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the incorporation of the Church Body of the Chinese Anglican Church in Hongkong, I have very little to say more than what is in the objects and reasons. These people have qualified themselves to be incorporated. They are in a sound financial position, and I see no reason why the Bill should not be passed. The objects and reasons are as follows:—The Chinese members of the Anglican Communion in Hongkong, being now in a position to pay their own Pastors and in other ways to support their own pastoral works, regulations have been drawn up for self-support and self-government and, as Hongkong contains several churches and chapels, it has been considered advisable to form Vestries to administer the affairs of each Church or

Chapel, and to form a Church Body to administer the affairs of the whole native Anglican Church in Hongkong. A Church Body having been duly constituted and appointed in accordance with the Regulations of the Chinese Branch of the Anglican Communion in Hongkong, it is wished to have it constituted a Corporation under the laws of the Colony for the purpose of holding and transferring property and for the other purposes mentioned in the Bill. The usual clause as to saving the rights of the Crown is inserted.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council then went into Committee and considered the Bill clause by clause. On resuming,

The Bill was read a third time and passed, on the motion of the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

THE WATER BILL.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—In moving the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for and regulate the Supply of Water in Hongkong and for the Maintenance and Repair of the works connected therewith, I have only a few remarks to make. It is useless for me to dilate at any length on the crisis from which this Colony has just emerged with reference to water, or rather the want of water, but I think I may tell you briefly that in consequence of the continued drought we have been perilously near the end of our supply and certainly nearer to the end than we have ever been before. It is of course no use to say that we have plenty of water now and therefore the danger is over for the present, for what has happened before may happen again, and therefore we have prepared this Bill. Mr. Chadwick, who was sent out by the Government of England at the request of a section of the community, told us before he went away that the Colony generally, owing to its increased population, could not in the future always depend on the natural annual rainfall, in spite of our large addition at Tatum, for a continuous daily supply to all tenements in the Colony. When he said that I think he referred—in fact, I am sure he did—principally to tenements in the Chinese parts of the town, because I think we are all agreed that waste has occurred there in a very large way and I think there can be no denying that the ordinary Chinese coolie is very ready to turn on a tap but has a horrible horror of turning it off. Some years ago—not so long after all, for it is within my recollection—there was no such system as a continuous water supply to Chinese tenements. The supply was then by means of water-pipes and stand pipes in the streets, and the Chinese occupants of the houses had to carry their water, and that was a safe-guard, for they did not carry much more than they wanted. To prevent waste at these stand-pipes various precautions were taken. The first consisted of some sort of automatic appliances which I must say did not prove very efficacious. One of these was a brass button which as long as you kept your thumb upon it allowed the water to flow and when you took it away the water stopped. But the coolie put a bit of wood in to keep the water going. Another appliance was a chain that you pulled down. As long as it was down the water flowed and it stopped when the chain was let back. The coolie tied a knot in that chain. These appliances were of great use, although there may be some fresh ones now. The chief precaution taken was this: there was a body of watchmen who patrolled the streets, and it was their duty when they came across a stand-pipe running to cut it off and if they could catch the man leaving it running they took him to the Magistracy and had him fined \$10. Under that system things worked very well and I think—I am sure—the Chinese were accustomed to carry their water. Although I thoroughly recognise that there is a difference in the population, at the same time, speaking comparatively, I have no hesitation in saying that in those days there was little danger of a water famine. After a time some philanthropic person or persons came along and granted what they thought to be a boon to the Chinese householders—which was a curse to the Colony—a continuous daily supply. What was the result? We had various shortages, periods of want of water, until last Spring, when various people said this must be put a stop to. The question is—How is it to be

put a stop to? This Bill is an endeavour on our part to do it. The system we have taken up is the system of meters. Section 13 says:—"Water will only be supplied to any tenement in the Colony through any service, provided it is measured by meter. Such meter shall be kept in repair by the Water Authority." That section applies to European and Chinese houses as well, so there can be no question of race coming in. The meters will measure the water supplied to your house, European or otherwise, and any excess over a certain allowance the owner or occupier will be charged for. With reference to the European, he has already been acquainted with the system. Apart from the European, any respectable Chinaman who wishes to keep on his connection with the main has only to notify the Government and they will supply a meter and charge him a reasonable rent for it. You might then ask—How does this prevent waste? I will tell you. I think it does. It seems certain that if the owner, who was the person primarily and principally involved in excess of consumption of water, finds that his tenants or occupiers are wasting water and causing him to spend a certain amount of money for excess, all he has to do is to refuse to carry on the undertaking and thereupon the Government can disconnect him with the mains, and the tenants and occupiers would have to carry their water as in the good days of old. You may say, perhaps, it is hard on the owner, but I think if you will consider it you will see surely no grounds for such an objection. "It would be obviously unfair, to my mind, to charge all the occupants of a Chinese house, which is very much like a rabbit warren, for the misdeeds of one or two. It would be absolutely impossible in nine cases out of ten to find out who is the delinquent. With regard to Chinese houses I do not think it would be unfair to charge the owner, who has always the means to stop it. With reference to this subject I might say that a gentleman who has left the Colony just now, but who has very close relations and interests in property, namely the Hon. C. P. Chater, stated that he approved of this scheme. That is all I can say. I heard him saying it, and therefore it seems to me there can be no hardship on owners. The owner can always get rid of his obligations and make his tenants revert to the old system, which in my opinion will reduce the waste. Your waste is there. That is where it will have to be cut off. There are Europeans who have large gardens and who use a great amount of water, but the main waste is in Chinese houses, and that is the evil we have to fight with. With regard to excess consumption it is defined as follows:—"Any quantity of water, ascertained by meter as having been used in a tenement in excess of a quarterly allowance, which, at 50 cents per 1,000 gallons, would be equal to one-third per centum on the rating valuation of the said tenement." I think before the word "rating" you must put in "annual." I will give you an example how it works out. Suppose an annual rating valuation of \$100 a month. Then one-third per cent. of that would be \$4, which at 50 cents per 1,000 gallons would give you 88 or 89 gallons per day. The other clauses of the Bill refer to the powers of the Government to collect the rents of the meter and also to collect any charges for excess consumption. There are of course general powers given to carry out the provisions of the Ordinance. That practically is the new part of the Bill. The balance is a sort of collection of provisions in various Ordinances which are hereby repealed and simply present to you in a consolidated form the Water Ordinances of this Colony.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—Sir, shortly before I came to the Council I received a communication from some of leading Chinese asking me to represent their views to the hon. members of this Council and also to oppose the second reading of this Bill. Personally I have not much objection to the Bill, but since I have to represent the views of our Chinese citizens, I wish to say a few words better to represent their case. The Chinese object to the provisions of this Bill on the following grounds. First of all, the allowance for daily consumption is too small. Just now we heard the learned Attorney-General review the quantity for a house with a \$10 a month rental, and he has told us that

the water for that quarter is \$4 at 50 cents per 1,000 gallons—that means to say, 8,000 gallons for the quarter. Now, a little arithmetic will show that 8,000 gallons divided by three will give you only 2,666, and then divide that by thirty and you will find that the house—a very big house, mind you, when you pay \$100 a month—will get only about 88 gallons allowance per day, and if the house contained ten persons that only gives us eight gallons per day per head. I put it, sir, to you, in Chinese houses paying \$100 a month there would very likely be twenty or thirty occupants. In European houses, including servants—"boys," cooks, and so on—there might be an average of fifteen persons, and thus the quantity of water allowed to them would be something like between four and five gallons, and whatever was in excess of this would be charged at the rate of 50 cents per 1,000 gallons. At that rate, for Chinese tenement houses consisting of thirty persons in a house for which the rent is \$100 the quantity allowed to them would be something between one and two gallons per head. That, I say, is extremely small, and the Bill is justly regarded by them as giving them no water at all. Again, there is another objection against the Bill, and that is that Chinese drawing this small quantity have to use it not only for potable purposes but for washing as well, and that on about two gallons per head per day. Now, the Sanitary Board are trying their utmost to get the Chinese to clean their houses, and we hope that in time we may induce them to keep their houses fairly clean and to use as much water as possible in washing their places. Now, the Chinese, if they have to pay such a heavy sum for water, will, I am sure, wherever possible, leave all washing alone. That would be in opposition to the sanitary requirements of the Colony, and for that reason alone I think the Bill should be opposed. Then again, there is another objection to this Bill, and that is charging by meter. It does not matter whether a man wastes the water or not—he must have a meter fixed on the premises. I believe the cost of a meter is pretty expensive just now; I think a meter will cost between sixty and seventy dollars.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Oh no, five dollars?

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—Five dollars? Well, anyhow, they charge for a gas-meter something like forty cents rental. However, if the water meter is so cheap that objection falls to the ground. I thought it would take a very heavy sum to buy one and that the rental would be fifty or sixty cents a month. The object of this Bill is detailed in the preamble as follows:—"Whereas large sums have from time to time been expended and may hereafter be expended in the establishment and maintenance of waterworks to secure a proper and adequate supply of water for the inhabitants of the Colony and it is expedient to provide for and regulate the supply of water from such works as well as the maintenance and repairs of all works in connection therewith also to make provision for the payment of all such sums as aforesaid not otherwise provided for and for the repayment of any loans in connection therewith and of the interest to accrue thereon." Now, to meet the payment of the sums necessary in connection with these waterworks, I think the Chinese made a very good suggestion when they said the Government should raise the taxes of the Colony. By doing so you would realise this extra sum, and that course would be preferable to trying to get income from the excessive consumption of water, which I believe would be a very expensive way of getting the money. As to the waste of water and how to prevent it, it is stated in the objects and reasons that "as the waste principally occurs in Chinese tenement houses and the cost of excess consumption in nine cases out of ten will have to be paid by the owner, it is conceived that such owners will elect to disconnect their services and allow their tenants to have recourse to the public fountains—a system which used to be universal in the case of such tenements. At the same time any person who prefers to be connected can be so." Now, upon this point, personally I must say I do not see any more ineffective means of preventing waste than by resorting to the plan proposed here. Again, about this waste of water I must say that water is wasted in

European houses quite as much as in Chinese, for the Chinese servants waste the water just the same as they would do in their own houses; besides, in European quarters a large amount of water is used for watering the garden and watering the lawn—quite as much perhaps as would suffice for the requirements of two or three tenement houses. To go back to the other point, however, the learned Attorney-General seems to think that the charging excessive consumption of water will fall on the house-owner or landlords, but you will find that the cost will fall on the tenant, inasmuch that if the landlord finds he has been charged for excessive consumption he can put so many dollars on the rental. I propose, therefore, sir, that this Ordinance be read a second time three months hence.

The Hon. WEI A YUK seconded.

The Hon. C. S. SHARP—I have only a few remarks to make, sir, upon this Ordinance. We have listened very carefully to what has been said by the hon. member who has just sat down. I wish to preface my remarks by saying that I approach this Bill in no hostile spirit. I am fully in favour of doing away with waste. Our experience has been such that we must make some strong effort to prevent a repetition of this thing. I think this Bill is a step in the right way, and should, generally speaking, hope that you will adopt that view of it. I am somewhat concerned, however, at one or two matters in it, especially the matter of the proposed charges for water. As I take it, the effect of the proposed charges will be to halve the certain free consumption allowed under the meter system. The owner is, I believe, charged at the rate of 25 cents per 1,000 gallons. The proposed charge is 50 cents. We certainly should husband our supply but to halve the allowance is rather a heroic measure. Stress has been laid by the Sanitary Board and other on the advisability of a better water supply. Mr. SHARP went on to quote from the Drainage By-laws, which referred to the necessity of a liberal application of water for the proper maintenance of house drains. I take it, he continued, that if we practically double the present cost of water I am afraid that may have the effect of making people penurious over their water supply, and speaking from the sanitary point of view as embodied in these extracts I have just read I think that would be rather a misfortune. As regards the present water consumption of the Colony, I have taken some of Mr. Chadwick's notes for my guidance, and he states that the consumption of water per head per day is about 17 gallons. He goes on to say that though the present water consumption is restricted it must certainly be reduced. But I submit that he could hardly have meant by a reduction such a tremendous reduction as cutting it down one-half; and therefore I am inclined to advocate that in place of fixing the free supply at the rate mentioned, 50 cents per 1,000 gallons, the rate for the free supply might possibly be increased from 25 but certainly should not be doubled. I think though that 50 cents for 1,000 gallons might very well be applied to the excess consumption. I see that Mr. Chadwick in one of his reports has suggested an ascending scale of charges. It would require an expert to go into the matter thoroughly, but looking at it from a very broad point of view the suggestion is, I think rather good. There are one or two—

HIS EXCELLENCY—Your remarks are most excellent, but the question before us now is whether the Bill be read a second time. There is a proposal that it be put off, practically, which has been seconded. If the Bill had come up for reading I think your various comments would come in. I take it that you are in favour of the Bill?

Hon. Mr. SHARP—Yes, with modifications.

HIS EXCELLENCY—But the question now is whether the Bill be read a second time at all. If you can speak on that subject I shall be delighted to hear you.

Hon. Mr. SHARP—I am afraid, sir, I am not sufficiently acquainted with the methods of procedure to know whether I was in order or not. I take it that I was out of order?

HIS EXCELLENCY—Oh, no; I do not say that.

Hon. Mr. SHARP—Might I suggest that

the mover of the amendment should make the period less than three months. It might be accepted. Three months is rather a long time.
Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—I will make it six weeks.

On a division, the motion was carried by 7 votes to 4 for the amendment. For the motion there voted Mr. Shewan, Mr. Playfair, Mr. Thomson, Mr. Bideley, Mr. Wise, Mr. Rumsey and Mr. May; for the amendment Mr. Dickson, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Wei A. Yak and Dr. Ho Kai.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL intimated that he did not intend to proceed further with the Bill at that meeting.

PAWNBROKERS' ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—In moving the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Pawnbroker's Ordinance (No. 3 of 186), I may state that it mainly provides under Section 3 that all fees shall be payable yearly in advance, but there is power given to pay them quarterly. With regard to the fees themselves they are very obsolete. They were fixed in 1860 and we have raised them a little and provided that all fees shall be posted up in the shop; if they are not posted up the licensee will be liable to a penalty. With regard to the time at the expiration of which goods shall become the property of the pawnbroker an extension of three months was desired. I have made it eight months except in the New Territory where it has been made twelve months, assimilating it to the time already prescribed in the neighbouring Chinese province.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council went into Committee on the Bill and considered it clause by clause. On resuming,

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL stated that he would not proceed further with the Bill at that meeting.

The Council adjourned *sine die*.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council, the Colonial Secretary (Hon. F. H. May) presiding.

HOUSE ALLOWANCE.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$120, being 4 months' house allowance granted to Mr. M. McIver, Inspector of Junks, Harbour Department, at the rate of \$30 per mensem.

The vote was agreed to.

INCREASE OF SALARY.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$300 to meet, during the current year, the increase in salary of Mr. N. G. Nolan, Interpreter to the Magistracy.

The CHAIRMAN—This increase of salary to Mr. Nolan, one of the interpreters at the Magistracy, was recommended at the end of last year, and after some correspondence it has now been approved by the Secretary of State, and this sum submitted to you is to cover the increase of \$25 per month for the current year.

The vote was agreed to.

KOWLOON SCHOOL EXPENSES.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$4,357.86 to cover, during the current year, the salaries of Mr. and Mrs. B. James, the Master and Mistress of the Kowloon School:—

Abstract.

Mr. James, half salary, from 3rd to 19th February; full salary from 20th February to 31st December, at £330 per annum	\$3,411.03
Mrs. James, half salary, from 20th January to 19th February; full salary from 20th February to 31st December, at £90 per annum	946.83
Total	\$4,357.86

The CHAIRMAN—This school, as you are aware, was opened not long ago at Kowloon, and the salaries and other charges for keeping up the institution are to be defrayed by the Government. This was not provided for in the Estimates and therefore you are now asked to vote these sums to cover the salaries of the master and mistress for the current year.

The vote was agreed to.

HOSPITAL WASHING.

The Officer Administering the Government

recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$500 in aid of the vote of \$500 for Washing performed for the Government Civil Hospital.

The CHAIRMAN—The Civil Hospital used to get most of its washing done in the Gaol by the prisoners, hence only \$500 was voted for washing. This year, however, owing to the shortage of water, the Gaol could not do the washing, and therefore it had to be done outside at the increased cost of \$500. That is the reason of this vote.

The vote was agreed to.

This was all the business.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 24th inst. in the Board Room. Present:—Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (President); Hon. F. J. Bideley, Captain Superintendent of Police; Dr. F. W. Clark, Medical Officer of Health; Mr. C. McI. Messer, Acting Registrar-General; Mr. E. Osborne, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Lau Chupak, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF VESSELS.

Mr. OSBORNE—From information which I have received from the newspapers, sir, I beg to move that the Board recommend the Government to proclaim Shanghai, Tientsin (including Tongku and Taku), and Saigon as places infected with cholera. The medical inspection of this port is such a very slight inconvenience for shipping—in fact, no inconvenience at all—that I think it will be no hardship for the Government to do as we recommend.

The PRESIDENT—Medical inspection is at present in force in regard to all vessels arriving from Shanghai.

Mr. OSBORNE—Only for scarlet fever.

The PRESIDENT—But all vessels are examined, so that if there was any cholera on board it would be found out; and as we have no official information at present of the existence of cholera at Tientsin and Saigon, it would perhaps be advisable for us to enquire by telegram from the Consuls for these two places if cholera is prevalent there.

Mr. OSBORNE—I have in view men-of-war and transports coming down from the North—from Tientsin. However, I will alter my motion to make it read that the Government be asked to enquire by telegram if cholera is prevalent at these ports, and, if so, to proclaim them as infected with cholera.

The PRESIDENT seconded, and the motion was carried.

HOUSING OF THE POPULATION.

The SECRETARY submitted a letter from the Colonial Secretary transmitting copies of the joint report of Professor Simpson and Mr. Chadwick on the housing of the population in Hongkong and asking to be furnished with any observations on the subject which the Board desired to make.

The PRESIDENT—The Board have been recommended by the Government to make any suggestions that they see fit with reference to this joint report, but as the report and the enclosed Public Health Bill have only been in our hands for some ten days I think it would be preferable for us to appoint a committee to consider this report and the Bill and report upon them to the Board. I move that a committee consisting of the President, Colonel Hughes and Mr. Lau Chupak be appointed under Section 13 of the Public Health Ordinance of 1901 to consider and report upon the joint report and Bill. Colonel Hughes I have not spoken to about this, but if he is not willing to act I will suggest another member in his place.

Hon. F. J. BADELEY seconded.

Mr. E. OSBORNE—I think, sir, that the matters dealt with in this report are far too important to be left to a committee. However ably and thoroughly the committee may do its work there is certainly safety in numbers, and the probability is that if the matter was discussed by the whole Board in committee we should arrive at better results than if it were discussed by only three members of the Board. This is a most important matter, because on our recommendations no doubt the Government will act, and I think that no recommendations on this report should go forward unless they have been thoroughly threshed out by the whole

Board. There will be no objection that I can see to the consideration of the matter by the whole Board any more than by three members of the Board.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—If I remember correctly, sir, I think some little time ago the Board decided to have this report translated into Chinese to allow it to be discussed by the Chinese. As this has not been done I would suggest that steps should be taken to have the translation made. I agree with Mr. Osborne that the whole Board should discuss an important matter like this.

The PRESIDENT—The reason I made the suggestion for a committee is that as on previous occasions when the Board has had to deal with important business of this nature, it was dealt with by a committee, the committee reported to the Board, and then the Board considered the whole thing in committee. I refer to the Insanitary Properties Bill more especially.

Mr. LAU CHUPAK—I think the President is right. When the sub-committee send in their report the Board then discusses the report, and whether the Board will accept the suggestion sent in by the committee or not is the Board's business.

Mr. OSBORNE—I beg to move as an amendment that the report be discussed by the whole Board in committee.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN seconded.

On a division the motion was carried by 4 votes to 3, the minority consisting of Mr. Osborne, Mr. Fung Wa Chun and Dr. Clark. The Board was proceeding to deal with other business when

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN said—You have not decided about my question whether you are going to have this report translated in Chinese or not.

The PRESIDENT—If you want that to be done I think the Board will make a recommendation to this effect.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—I think it was decided by the Board some time ago. It was the intention of the Government too, I think.

The PRESIDENT—The best plan will be for you to propose it.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—Very well; I beg to move that a general outline of the report be translated into Chinese for circulation.

Mr. C. McI. MESSER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

ALLEGED ANNOYANCE BY SANITARY SERVANTS.

With reference to a letter which had appeared in a contemporary on the 28th inst. concerning the alleged annoyance of householders in Shelley Street by Sanitary Board visiting parties, statements were submitted by the two Chinese medical students and the two English sappers who accompanied them, asserting in effect that they had done nothing more than they were ordered to do by the Medical Officer of Health's instructions.

As a result of the enquiry made, the Colonial Secretary reported to His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government that the search parties did not seem in any way to blame.

His Excellency replied to this communication as follows:—"I concur. Would it not be possible to inform the editor [of the journal concerned] that enquiry had been made as to the letter appearing in his paper with the result that I was satisfied that everything had been done properly?"

This correspondence was forwarded to the Sanitary Board for such action as they might deem desirable to vindicate the search parties.

Mr. Lau Chupak minuted:—"I have heard many complaints of a similar nature. In any case the officers must be instructed not to interfere unreasonably and to behave with more consideration and courtesy."

Mr. E. Osborne minuted:—"Prosecute the woman for obstructing the officers of the Board in the execution of their duty. Nothing like having the matter threshed out in public."

The PRESIDENT—Do the Board desire to take any further action in this matter? I may say that Dr. Clark has given careful instructions to the students employed, and there have been no complaints since.

The report was allowed to lie on the table.

THE DEATH-RATE.

The mortality statistics for the week ended 31st May showed a death-rate of 35.5 as compared with 24.0 in the previous week and 55.3 in the corresponding week of the previous year.

CLOSING OF WELLS.

The Medical Officer of Health recommended the Board to order the closing of the well at 46, Queen's Road Central as being tainted with impurities.

The recommendation was adopted, and this closed the public business of the Board.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce held in the Chamber Room, City Hall, on Friday, 13th June, at 3 p.m. Present:—Hon. C. S. Sharp (Vice-Chairman), Hon. C. W. Dickson, Messrs. A. Haupt, E. A. Hewett, W. Poate, N. A. Siebs, J. R. M. Smith, H. E. Tom ins, R. C. Wilcox, Hon. R. Shewan (*ex officio*) and A. R. Lowe (Secretary).

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

Mr. POATE—I have much pleasure in proposing the Hon. C. S. Sharp as Chairman of this Committee. Mr. Sharp has been the Vice-Chairman for some time past, he has a very intimate knowledge of the Chamber, and takes a very keen interest in its proceedings. I am sure he will fulfil the duties of the position to our entire satisfaction.

Mr. WILCOX—I have much pleasure in seconding the election of Mr. Sharp as Chairman. He has all the qualifications needed for the post, and has amply proved his fitness for it by his conduct of the business of the Chamber during the period that has elapsed since the departure of our late Chairman. As Vice-Chairman Mr. Sharp proved of the greatest use on various occasions and his knowledge and assistance in the preparation of the Memorandum on the Tariff, presented to the British Special Commissioner last year, were simply invaluable. In fact, it is not too much to say that a very large share of the work was done by him. I am sure we could not make a better choice. I have much pleasure in seconding Mr. Poate's proposal.

The Committee being unanimous in their support.

Hon. C. S. SHARP rose to thank them for doing him so great an honour and said that he was aware of his many shortcomings, but would do his best, and he hoped that he would always be able to look to the Committee for their confidence and support in carrying out the duties of the position.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN.

The CHAIRMAN—The Vice-Chair now being vacant, it gives me very great pleasure to propose Mr. Poate as your Vice-Chairman.

Mr. HEWETT seconded.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. POATE—Thank you, gentlemen.

NEW MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE.

The CHAIRMAN said it gave him on behalf of his colleagues much pleasure in welcoming the new members of Committee, Hon. C. W. Dickson, and Mr. J. R. M. Smith, and also their new representative on the Legislative Council.

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the last Monthly Meeting of the 7th May and of the special meeting held on 27th May were read and confirmed.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEES.

It was unanimously agreed that the Vice-Chairman and Hon. C. W. Dickson be appointed to the Corresponding Committee and Mr. J. R. M. Smith to the Arbitration Committee.

NEW MEMBER.

The SECRETARY reported that since the last Meeting Messrs. Arratoon V. Apcar & Co had been elected to membership, subject to the usual confirmation at the next annual meeting.

THE CHAMBER'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COUNCIL.

In consequence of the receipt of a letter from H.E. the Officer Administering the Government informing the Chamber that there was a vacancy on the Council and inviting the Chamber to nominate a candidate to fill the same, a Special General Meeting of the Members was summoned for 5th June, at which Mr. R. Shewan was elected, defeating Mr. R. C. Wilcox by 58 votes to 36.

Read letter from Colonial Secretary, dated 7th June, acknowledging receipt of the Chamber's letter of 5th June informing the Acting Governor of the selection made, and

stating that His Excellency had been pleased to appoint Mr. Shewan to the seat rendered vacant for the present by the absence on leave of Mr. T. H. Whitehead.

TYPHOON WARNINGS.

The reply of the Director of the Scaev Observatory, Shanghai, in answer to the Chamber's letter of the 22nd April last, confirmed the attitude of the Kowloon Observatory and a letter was thereupon sent to the Colonial Secretary strongly deprecating the want of co-operation displayed by Dr. D. berck with other observers in the Far East. It was also pointed out that the prompt issue of storm warnings and the need for the establishment of a complete code of flag-signals by day and lantern-signals by night were matters of great importance to the shipping community.

Read reply from the Colonial Secretary dated the 21st ult., to the effect that the matter was receiving the attention of the Government.

The CHAIRMAN expressed the hope that as the typhoon season was coming on the Government would take immediate steps in the matter.

It was decided to approach the Colonial Secretary again if no move was made in the course of 10 days.

COLLISIONS BETWEEN JUNKS AND STEAMERS.

The Acting Colonial Secretary replied to the Chamber's letter of 20th April on the 7th ult. that His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government concurred in the recommendation that legislative action should be taken in hand, and that steps were being taken to amend the Bill bearing on the subject now before the Legislative Council in accordance with the recommendations of the Chamber.

The CHAIRMAN said this was satisfactory and mentioned that the case propounded was a good one and had been stated very clearly.

FRENCH CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL.

Read letter from Colonial Secretary dated the 27th ult. enclosing a copy of the letter of the Secretary of State for the Colonies of 15th April to the effect that a Presidential decree had been issued under the Law of 22nd February last, applying provisionally for 6 months only from 20th February, the minimum tariff to Hongkong. A further despatch was also received stating that the minimum tariff had been extended *sine die* to the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, so long as French goods enjoy equal advantages in those states and are treated under the "most favoured nation clause."

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that Hongkong only got 6 months' extension of the minimum tariff and that it might be necessary to move in the matter at the end of that period.

THE REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE LICENSING OF CHINESE PILOTS.

Messrs. E. A. Hewett, A. Haupt, and W. Poate, the Sub-Committee formed for this object on the 21st ultimo, sent in their report on the 11th instant together with a list of proposed regulations for the consideration of the General Committee.

The report was read and adopted, and on the proposition of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. TOMKINS, it was resolved to forward a copy to the Colonial Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN said the thanks of the Committee were due to Messrs. E. A. Hewett, A. Haupt, and W. Poate, the Sub-Committee, for drawing up such an excellent report, and he hoped the Government would follow out the suggestions made therein.

CANTON RIVER OBSTRUCTIONS.

H. B. M. Minister at Peking acknowledged with thanks the receipt of the Chamber's letter of 18th April last enclosing copy of Captain Lloyd's Memorandum.

PENALTIES ON CHINESE STOWAWAYS ON STEAMERS TO THE PHILIPPINES.

A letter was received from Messrs. Butterfield & Swire on 8th ult. dealing with the *Kaifong* case; and the Government was written to pointing out the inadequate penalties under the present ordinances to deter attempts of this nature, owing to the stringency of the law relating to their prohibition from immigrating into the Philippine Islands, and suggesting the amendment of the ordinance to give the magistrate power to inflict a penalty of one or two years imprisonment with hard labour in addition to the fine.

It was pointed out that there were bigger men behind the coolie brokers, stevedores and native crew, who were implicated and should be punished, and that in the *Kaifong* case the owners were compelled to enter into a bond of \$70,000 gold to secure the conveyance of the stowaways back to Hongkong, and that if the officers had not made the discovery and reported same to the U.S. Custom authorities a very heavy fine would have been inflicted. The Government, however, replied that their opinion was that the law as it at present stands was sufficient to meet ordinary cases, and that the *Kaifong* case was exceptional and apparently due to the lack of vigilance displayed by the executive officers of the steamer, but that under certain circumstances named it might be a matter for further consideration whether any alteration of the law was necessary.

A discussion followed on the *Kaifong* case, in which it was pointed out that the executive officers had nothing to do with the stowing of the steamer, and that they were not implicated, no suggestions of that nature being made by the magistrate trying the case, and that the U.S. authorities at Iloilo had held a searching enquiry, going so far as to follow the matter up by sending detectives to Hongkong, with the result that they were satisfied the officers had done all that was necessary and were not themselves concerned in the fraud.

It was decided to send copies of the correspondence to the shipping firms concerned in the trade with the Philippines for their information and views on the matter.

CABLE RATES.

As resolved at the last monthly meeting, a letter was sent to the Eastern Extension Telegraph Co., Ltd., and in reply the manager in China wrote stating that the Chamber's observations accompanying their renewed application for reduced rates between the Far East and Europe had been submitted to the directors for their consideration.

INDO-CHINA QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

The Colonial Secretary transmitted copy of letter received from the Consul for France communicating copy of telegram received by him on the 19th ultimo showing the sanitary measures declared against the arrivals from Hongkong by the Government of Indo-China.

The Colonial Secretary's letter was also read informing the Chamber that H.B.M. Consul at Saigon had wired on the 21st ultimo that 12 days' quarantine would be enforced on arrivals from Hongkong.

Enquiries having been made, the SECRETARY reported having written the Consul for France inferring that pressed raw cotton and yarn in bales from Bombay, via Hongkong, were not restricted goods within the meaning of the Indo-China regulations, and read a reply in which the Consul for France stated that he understood these goods, so packed, could still be imported, as before, in terms of an "arrêté" of 19th April last.

PROPOSED INCREASE OF TAXES ON IMPORTS AT SWATOW.

Correspondence was read from Messrs. Bradley & Co. and Douglas, Lapraik & Co. bringing to the knowledge of the Chamber a proposed increase of taxation at Swatow, and after some discussion it was decided not to move in the matter until more definite information was to hand.

SUGAR CONFERENCE AT BRUSSELS.

The Parliamentary paper relating to the recent sugar conference at Brussels, including a copy of the convention of March 5th, 1902, which had been transmitted by the Colonial Secretary for the information of the Committee, was laid on the table.

ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE NEW TAXES ON YARNS IMPORTED BY BRITISH STEAMERS TO CANTON.

Letters were read from Messrs. Butterfield & Swire of 3rd and 9th instant, the latter enclosing copy of the proclamation by the *lekin* office at Canton, from which it appears that a Battery Tax of 3 per cent. and *lekin* 2 per cent. are being enforced, in addition to the usual 5 per cent. I.M. Customs duty on yarns, making in all 10 per cent.

A case was cited in which the German Consul had obtained release of goods belonging to a German merchant, seized for refusal to pay these taxes.

It was decided to enquire from H.B.M. Consul-General at Canton the limit of the *lekin*

free area at that port and whether these taxes were being levied within such area.

SUGGESTED ALTERATION OF THE LAW RELATING TO CHINESE EMPLOYED WITH FOREIGN FIRMS.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co. Ltd. of 5th instant, bringing to the notice of the Chamber the growing tendency of Chinese in the service of foreigners to leave employment without notice and the inconvenience and loss to which employers are subject in consequence. The company's letter goes very fully into detail as to the cause, and expresses the hope that the Chamber will address the Government on the subject with a view to the matter of complaint being made a punishable offence, as is the case with domestic servants. Considerable discussion followed. It was resolved to further discuss the matter at the next meeting.

ABSCONDING CHINESE DEBTORS.

Messrs. Mounsey & Brutton, solicitors, addressed a letter on 9th inst. setting forth the case, judgment, and attempted carrying into effect of same between Fuk Tai merchant in this Colony, and the partners in the Wo Mang firm, of Canton, who also had an agency in this Colony, until the repayment of debt due by them to the plaintiff was demanded. Judgment was obtained for the debt and costs, but the British Consul refused to use his influence to collect same from defendants in Canton on the ground that it was not a case of absconding and suggesting the proper method of collecting the debt was to take fresh action in the Cantonese Court of Justice.

In view of the fact that by this action trade between the two places is rendered insecure, to the detriment of the trade of Hongkong, the writers ask the Committee to consider the matter and make such representations in the proper quarter as it thought fit.

It was decided to advise the applicants to represent the matter to the Government.

INCREASED DUTY ON OPIUM AT CANTON.

H.B.M. Minister at Peking was addressed on 13th ult. to the effect that the new duty proposed amounts, in addition to the duty and *lekin* paid under the terms of the Chefoo convention, to Tls. 115.20 per picul, and that the importers are to be held responsible and expected to collect the tax. It was pointed out that although the duty was to be payable on both the native and imported article the former would escape much of the duty as at present happens and the latter would pay in full and practically the import here would bear the whole burden of the tax. Attention was drawn to the fact that smuggling would certainly be much more resorted to in view of the greatly enhanced cost of the article and that the proposal to double the imports on foreign opium was a poor return for the consideration shown by the British Government to China in helping her to collect the opium taxes. It was suggested that a provincial share of the indemnity might easily be met by increasing the duty on the native product to the level of the foreign one and enforcing its collection.

Sir E. Satow's letter of 26th ult. was read stating that he has brought the matter to the notice of His Majesty's Government.

A translation of the proclamation of the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung re increase of tax on opium in the Hu Kwang province by Hk. Tls. 65 per picul was also laid before the meeting.

It was decided that nothing further could be done pending result of H.B.M. Minister's correspondence with the Home Government.

RESIGNATION OF HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

The CHAIRMAN.—Before we separate I should like to say a few words with reference to the long and valuable services rendered to this Chamber of Commerce by Mr. T. H. Whitehead, its late representative on the Legislative Council of this Colony. In this capacity, and with only short intervals of absence, Mr. Whitehead sat for the past twelve years, and during the whole of that period he took the most zealous, earnest, and active interest in everything pertaining to all public affairs in Hongkong. We may not all of us, or at all times, have given our entire sympathy or support to Mr. Whitehead's methods of carrying on his campaign of public duties, but, be that as it may, we one and all, I feel certain, must readily

admit and heartily give him credit for the fact that he never spared himself, and that he brought to bear on his public work an amount of zeal, earnestness, and assiduity which could be equalled by few, and was surpassed by none, and by his example in thus keeping alive a keen interest in public questions he undoubtedly did much good service for the community, which it will ever bear in mind. If proof of this were required I need only remind you of the appreciative and generous tribute spoken by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government at the farewell banquet given last week by the Chinese commercial community to Mr. Whitehead, a tribute extremely gratifying not only to its recipient, but also to this Chamber, which had elected him its representative. I feel sure that all members of this Committee must regret the loss this Chamber sustains through Mr. Whitehead's departure, and that, while you will accord him a hearty vote of thanks for the many services he has rendered in the past, you will also join in wishing him every success in his work at home, and a similar career of public usefulness there. As his departure was somewhat sudden I regret that time did not permit of our meeting him and expressing our thanks in person, but I would now propose the following resolution:—Resolved, that this Committee hereby records its high appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mr. T. H. Whitehead throughout the long period from 1891 to the present time, during which he represented the Chamber of Commerce on the Legislative Council of Hongkong, and expresses its profound regret at the loss sustained by the Chamber through his departure from the Colony.

Mr. WILCOX.—I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution just proposed by the Chairman. In doing so I heartily endorse his appreciative remarks on Mr. Whitehead's useful work in the Legislative Council. I should at the same time like to refer to Mr. Whitehead's services for many years as a member of this Committee. Mr. Whitehead took a very keen interest in all the various questions that came before the Committee, and he was prolific of suggestions, some of which were very valuable. In this connection I may mention that he was the originator of the idea of publishing the minutes of the monthly meetings in the Press. I am sure you will all admit the value of this suggestion. The publication of our minutes has, I am confident, done much not only to arouse the interest of the members of the Chamber but also that of the public in our proceedings. It has also served in no slight degree to increase the prestige and strengthen the influence of the Chamber both with the Government and with other public bodies. Personally I am indebted to Mr. Whitehead for the assistance he willingly rendered to me in securing new members when the finances of the Chamber were at a rather low ebb and there were many firms outside its pale, and who were then induced to join. Mr. Whitehead never spared trouble and was always ready to help in any emergency. I am sure, gentlemen, you will all cordially endorse the terms of the resolution. (Applause)

The resolution was unanimously carried. The meeting then terminated.

The Chinese government proposes to have a railway line between Shanghai and Nanking constructed in the near future, the privilege of construction to be granted to any merchant syndicate willing to take up the enterprise. According to Shanghai mandarin reports the contract is to be granted to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., who have tendered for the job, and it only remains for the agreement to be signed, when work is to be commenced at once.

The Civil Administrator of Newchwang has informed the Consular Body at Shanghai that vessels arriving at Port Arthur from Shanghai, Taku, or Tientsin will be liable to seven days' quarantine on account of cholera. He proposes that the local quarantine regulations shall be similarly applied at Shanghai. He is the more urgent as several deaths from cholera have occurred among coolies landed from the British steamer *Hunan*, from Tientsin. The Consular Body has agreed to his proposal, with the proviso that the coolies are to be landed in quarantine.

THE HEALTH OF HONGKONG.

During the week ended on the 23rd inst. there were 49 cases and 51 deaths from plague; 15 cases of cholera, with 9 deaths; 2 non-fatal cases of enteric fever; and 1 case of small-pox.

The mortality returns for May show 771 deaths during the month, of which no less than 57 (53 civilians, 3 Army, 1 Navy) were in the European and Foreign community and 714 among the Chinese. Cholera caused 149 deaths (21 among the European and Foreign community) and plague 133 (4 in the same community). The principal death-rates in different registration districts were:—British and Foreign civilians, 64.7 per 1,000 per annum (an enormous increase on the figures of the previous four months—20, 21.3, 20.7, 29.3); Chinese, Victoria, land 83.5, harbour 21.5; Chinese, whole Colony, land 30.1, boat 24.1, land and boat 29.2; whole civil community, 30.3. The figures for Stanley may also be noticed; the Chinese death-rate was 70.5 per 1,000 per annum, the estimated population being 850.

The plague figures at noon on Saturday stood at 373 cases for the whole year.

THE CANTON RUN.

NEW STEAMER BUILDING.

Speaking in London some little time ago at a general meeting of shareholders of the P. & O. S. N. Co., Sir Thomas Sutherland, the president, referring to the development of the shipping trade in the Far East, more especially in its building branch, said it was possible that in the future vessels of large tonnage would be built on the banks of the Yangtze. His words, viewed in their application to the Far East generally, have had their verification here in Hongkong, for the Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co. have already laid the keel of a steamer of dimensions somewhat similar to those of the *Heungshan*, now running between this port and Macao. The new vessel, which is to augment a daily passenger service between here and Canton will be owned jointly by the Macao Steamboat Co., and Messrs. Butterfield & Swire. Her length will be 300 feet and speed 15 knots; the total cost of construction will amount to something like four lakhs of dollars (\$400,000). From the foregoing figures it will be seen that the new steamer will probably be the largest yet built in Hongkong, and the fact that the Dock Company have contracted to deliver her in twelve months says much for the resources of that establishment and marks pronouncedly the growing importance of the Colony as a marine base generally. The vessel, when completed, will be handsomely fitted up, and will leave Hongkong at noon on the daily run to Canton. When the differential duties have been abolished, the steamer, it is anticipated, will carry cargo at present junk-borne. On behalf of the owners, the building of the steamer is being superintended by Mr. Goddard, marine surveyor, who looks after its construction generally; Mr. Innes, who will make the construction of the hull his particular care; and Mr. Ramsay, whose task will be to superintend the fitting up of the engines.

HONGKONG EDUCATION IN 1901.

The following is the report for 1901 of Mr. E. A. Irving, Inspector of Schools:—

STAFF.

I was appointed Inspector of Schools from 26th April, 1901, and took over control of the Department from Mr. Brewin on 1st May. Messrs. Curwen and Bullin were appointed on 30th August, 1900, and on 24th December, 1900, respectively, to the *Belilia* Reformatory, their appointments dating from 4th January and 2nd March, 1901. Mr. and Mrs. James were engaged as Headmaster and Headmistress of the Kowloon British School within the year under review, but had not arrived in the Colony before its termination. Miss Bateman was appointed as Second Assistant Mistress in the *Belilia* Girls' School from 1st September, 1901.

FINANCE.

The sole source of revenue of the Department consists in the fees charged at the *Belilia* Girls' School. These fees were raised in the month of September from 50 cents a month to

\$1,500 a month, with certain reductions where two or more children of the same family are at school together.

The total expenditure for the Department was \$48,195 as against \$40,832 in 1900. The increase is mainly due to the cost of the Belilios Reformatory, an experiment which has failed and has been abandoned; and to an increase in the staff and salaries of the Belilios Public School.

GENERAL.

Since arriving in the Colony I have written a report on the system of education in the Colony for the Board of Education at home, and I have acted as Honorary Secretary to the Education Committee of which body I was also a member. My views have thus been put before the Government at considerable length and there is little to add.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

English School.—The Belilios Public School for Girls is the only Government School. The staff was strengthened, as already stated, during the year, and is now fully equal to the work before it. The very satisfactory education given reflects credit on all concerned. I have, however, thought it desirable to request that certain changes should take place in the course studied by the highest class, in the hope of making it more useful in itself and less intended for purposes of examination; the result of the change will appear in the next year's report.

ANGLO-CHINESE DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

Three of these schools—at Saiyingpun, Waiwai, and Yaumati—are in as nearly a satisfactory state, as can be expected so long as English subjects are taught exclusively by Chinese. The report of the Education Committee recommends a complete reorganisation of these schools. The fourth school at Wongnaichong is less satisfactory.

These are seven in number of various degrees of efficiency. I was compelled to recommend that the school at Apichau should be closed, and that the services of the master at Waiwai should be dispensed with. Shek-o, Tanglung-chau and Pokfulam are small schools which do not seem to be particularly needed. There is no doubt that this class of schools is in want of radical amendment.

GRANT-IN-AID SCHOOLS.

These schools, and education in general, are so thoroughly discussed in the report of the Committee on Education that it is useless to deal with the matter further. I propose to give in my next annual report a full description of the more important grant-earning schools under the different missionary bodies.

THE FIRE BRIGADE IN 1901.

The Hon. F. J. Badeley's report on the Government Fire Brigade, for the year 1901, is published in the *Gazette*. It is very brief and we publish it almost in its entirety:—

There were fifty-eight fires and eighty-four incipient fires during the year. Details regarding each are attached. The Brigade turned out fifty-seven times during the year. The estimated damages caused by the fires was \$630,381 and by the incipient fires \$212,50.

The water in the mains was turned off from 11th November last, since which date the steam engines and sea water were used; and the work of extinguishing fires was rendered less prompt and considerably more arduous.

One large fire occurred in a warehouse after that date, fortunately quite close to the sea-wall.

One fire occurred in the Harbour during the year.

A new telescopic fire-escape, capable of reaching a height of 60 feet, was received from England on the 5th November. The men were drilled in handling it, but it was never called into actual use at a fire.

The conduct of the Brigade has been good.

I acted as Superintendent of the Brigade and Mr. Mackie as Assistant Superintendent from the 6th September, when Mr. May left the Colony on leave of absence.

An additional Assistant Superintendent was added to the Brigade from the 15th July, the post being filled by Inspector Kemp.

The Chinese Eastern Railway intend to open a new steamship service between Okhotsk and Kamchatka.

THE CHINESE AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Chinese Commercial Union was held on the 19th inst. at 3 p.m., at their premises in Des Vaux Road, to discuss the Public Health and Buildings Bill and the Water Bill, and was very largely attended. The hall was almost packed full. There were present Mr. Fung Wa Chün (Chairman), Messrs. Lan Chupak, Liao Tsz Shan, Chan Lau Hin, Kwok Tuen, Tam Tsz Kong, Chau Kang Yee, Loo Koon Ting, Hn Shun Chuen, Tsenng Sa Kai, Ho Kom Tong, Sin Tak-fan, and a great many others representing almost all branches of trade. Mr. Ahmet Rumjahn was invited to be present.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, you are called together here to-day to discuss two important measures, the Public Health and Buildings Bill which will shortly be introduced into the Legislative Council and the other, the Water Meter Bill, the second reading of which will take place at the next sitting of Council.

Letters having been read from the Hon. Ho Kai intimating that he and the Hon. Wei A Yuk, Chinese representatives, would be glad to know at an early date the views of the Chinese community on these measures, Mr. Fung Wa Chün proceeded:—As the result of the petition got up by some European ratepayers and some members of the Chinese community, two sanitary experts, Professor Simpson and Mr. Chadwick, have been sent out to report on the sanitation of this Colony. Their conjoint report, embodying a draft Bill, now before the public, intimates that the Bill might reasonably be expected to obviate the necessity for further sanitary legislation for a few years at least. The Bill contains 276 sections, many of which are subdivided into various sub-sections. Besides these, there are bye-laws and regulations, too numerous to describe. The principal sections of the Bill were then touched upon, such as overcrowding, verandahs and balconies over Crown land, windows, cubicles, height of buildings, open spaces and areas, resumption of insanitary properties, the allowance of buildings in narrow lanes and streets until their re-erection, and designs of new buildings, &c. Since the plague year, the following Ordinances have been passed: No. 15 of 1894—The Closed Houses and Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance; No. 7 of 1895—The Buildings (Amendment) Ordinance 1895; No. 5 of 1896—An Ordinance to Amend the Buildings Ordinance 1889; No. 21 of 1897—An Ordinance to amend Closed Houses and Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance 1894; No. 11 of 1893—The Buildings (Amendment) Ordinance 1898; No. 34 of 1899—The Insanitary Properties Ordinance 1899; No. 32 of 1900—The Crown Lands Resumption Ordinance; No. 30 of 1901—The Public Health Ordinance, 1901; No. 30 of 1901—An Ordinance to further amend the Law Relating to Buildings; and No. 1 of 1902—The Rats Ordinance 1902. All these Ordinances introduced within these few years affect more or less private vested interests. The present Bill occupies eighty closely printed pages of foolscap, which would take days to explain word by word to that large assembly. We thought this Bill would put an end to constant legislation on private properties, but on careful study this was found to be not so. Some insanitary properties are dealt with, and others are not. There seems to be no finality about dealing with insanitary dwellings. Frequent legislation had, in the past, retarded progress of prosperity to some extent, and our community treat repeated introductions of new laws with abhorrence and fear. I shall be glad to hear the views of the representatives of the various branches of commerce.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK, member of the Sanitary Board, said—The New Bill will give the Sanitary Commissioner too much arbitrary power. The present habitable floor space in a house allowed for an adult will be raised from 30 square feet, to 50 square feet, and the air space will be raised from 400 cubic feet to 600 cubic feet. The abolition of cubicles, unless each is provided with a window, is impracticable in view of the fact that Chinese houses have been so built, so total remodelling will have to be undergone before they could comply with the recommendations of the experts. If the section referring to cubicles becomes law, it

will mean that every Chinese family must occupy a whole floor (as it is now called) for themselves. I wonder how many Chinese families, seeing that rental has already been raised to killing rate, can afford to do so. There are many details in the Bill, which, if they become law, would be found to be unworkable and would cause the Government and inhabitants enormous trouble and annoyance. All these things would be better first fully thrashed out and public opinion taken before laying the views of the community before the Government through our representatives.

Mr. TSEUNG SZ KAI, J.P., one of the representatives of the Nam Pak Hong, said—More loyal and law-abiding subjects than Chinese are hard to be found, and yet we are frequently ill-treated. For the erection of match-sheds for the Coronation for example, the full-red-tapeism system of granting permits has to be gone through. With one heart and soul we take great pleasure in joining the celebration, but individual guarantee for the consequences of these match-sheds had to be given before permits were issued. We must engage lawyers to draw up a petition about this Bill.

The CHAIRMAN explained that the officials whose duty it is to grant permits for match-sheds had not been authorised to go beyond the regulation governing this matter for this extraordinary occasion and, consequently, the usual formality had to be gone through. The responsibility and risks should be borne by the *kai-fong* and not by any particular individual. He felt really sorry that Mr. Tseung Sz Kai had been put to some trouble and inconvenience. About the matter of getting up a petition, a member of the foreign community had approached him with a view of asking the Chinese community to join in the petition which the other community are taking steps to draw up, but he preferred to leave this matter to the hands of the meeting.

Mr. LIAO Tsz SHAN, manager of the China Merchants Steam Ship Co., said—The views of the foreign community about this Bill might not be fully endorsed by ours, who are more affected than anybody else. It would be better to have a separate petition, the expenses of which to be defrayed by the community.

Mr. AHMET RUMJAHN, land and commission agent, suggested that as the Bill is only a recommendation of the sanitary experts, a deputation composed of the representatives of the leading Chinese, with the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai and the Hon. Wei A Yuk at their head, should call on the Officer Administering the Government and beg him to appoint a Commission to have the Bill fully reported upon before sending it to the Council.

Mr. TAM Tsz KONG, manager of the Hip On Insurance Co., said this would expedite matters very much, as it would take a long time to go through every section of the Bill before a petition would be properly worded.

It was ultimately resolved that a Committee, consisting of representatives of bankers, Nam Pak Hong and all the principal branches of trade, and Mr. Ahmet Rumjahn as a member, be at once formed to go through the Bill section by section, with their solicitors, Messrs. Evans and Harston, and that a petition be drawn up and presented to the Government without delay.

A note of thanks was heartily accorded to the Chairman by the meeting, which did not rise until very late in the afternoon, when the subject of the Water Bill was then discussed.

At Peking on the 10th inst. the ladies of the Diplomatic circle were again entertained at the Palace by the Empress Dowager. The correspondent of the *P. & T. Times* says:—One might have thought that the Spring Festival would have been too full of unpleasant memories to be chosen by the Dowager as the day on which to receive her guests, but apparently not. There was one innovation at this last audience, Mrs. Conger asked a lady who not only speaks Chinese, but who is also well versed in Chinese customs and etiquette to accompany her as interpreter. This would on the face of it seem a goodly fashion to follow in future. It enables all to conform to strict Palace etiquette. On previous occasions the gentlemen interpreters have always had to have their refreshments served in another room, and Chinese interpreters have had to be employed during the luncheon.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 21st June.

A TEMPLE FOR LI HUNG-CHANG.

After the death of Li Hung-chang there was an Imperial Decree sent out to all the provinces in China that wherever the old statesman had been or where he had done some meritorious services temples should be established in honour of his memory. At Canton accordingly the officials and gentry have started a subscription and chosen a site near the Five-storied Pagoda to build a temple, to be called Li Hung-chang's Temple.

EDUCATION.

To establish English colleges and schools in Canton it requires of course a large fund, and the Government being poor, the officials and gentry have resolved to raise money by subscription; the subscribers will get honorary titles according to the amount they subscribe. Twenty to thirty students left a few days ago for Japan to pursue their course of study with a view to taking up the post of teachers in the Canton schools in the future, and a site seventy cheung long by thirty cheung wide has been chosen at the foot of the Five-storied Pagoda for a big college.

THE RECLAMATION SCHEME.

With reference to the Wong Sha reclamation, north east of Shameen, with regard to which Lo Sew Ping and other were petitioned against by the gentry of that locality for filling up the sea front to the extent of eighty cheung more than they are entitled to, I hear that the matter has taken another turn. The Director of the Canton and Hankow Railway, Sing-Sün Wai, has offered to take the reclamation ground at Wong Sha for the use of the railway and to pay the licensees \$80,000.

WATER-WORKS.

The water-works in Canton have been talked about for a long time; to this day they have not succeeded, either for want of capital or for want of a few really energetic persons to take them up. Last year a certain Ho presented a petition to the Viceroy and the Board of Reorganisation, offering to undertake the construction of water-works. He and his shareholders were ordered to pay forty or fifty thousand dollars into one of the native banks as security; but they did not do so and the matter remains *in statu quo*. I hear that some other enterprising men are forming a company to tender for the work.

SWATOW.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Swatow, 21st June.

NEW BRITISH CONSUL.

H. B. M. Consul Mr. W. Holland is leaving shortly for home on furlough and is succeeded by Mr. B. Twyman, who has already arrived from Canton.

PROCLAMATION BY THE TAOTAI.

On account of the late robberies committed here, and in view of the supineness shown by the local officials, the Taotai has issued a proclamation to the following effect:—"In future 20 soldiers are to patrol the streets nightly and particularly to guard the foreign Hong. The patrol will be held responsible for any misdeed perpetrated at night. If the soldiers, however, are instrumental in apprehending any suspicious person, they will be duly rewarded and their names brought before the Viceroy. Any person so arrested, and on trial being found guilty, will be decapitated." It will be seen by the above that the Taotai is on the *qui vive* and fully intends to keep this place free from law-breakers.

UNNECESSARY ANXIETY.

The *Swatow Daily News* reported in its columns the other day a rumour that the foreign firms contemplated engaging Sikh watchmen to guard their places at night owing to the recent robberies. The local paper considers that such a step would ultimately lead to foreigners forming a settlement here, and therefore urges the Chinese authorities to take the initiative and adopt proper measures to protect the place.

MISSIONARY INTERFERENCE.

An affair of rather great interest with which a

member of the Roman Catholic missionary body is connected is reported to me. Although the incident occurred a long while ago, it nevertheless deserves to be given publicity now and I can vouch for the *bona-fides* of my informant. It appears that out of a lot of silk piece goods passed at the Native Custom House some time ago, one package was stolen. A few days after the theft one Ying Ho offered a package of silk piece goods to Chung Hung, silk-merchant, for sale. The latter, having read in the local daily that Hu Mao had lost some silk, went to consult him previous to buying the silk from Ying Ho. Hu Mao subsequently proceeded to Chung Hung's shop, and indentifying there the silk as his lost property, reported the matter to the Commissioner of Customs.

Ying Ho was then arraigned, and as he could not give satisfactory explanations as to where he obtained the silk from he was placed under arrest. Several friends of his tried to get him liberated but could not succeed. They then approached the Romanist priest Lo Sing Ho, who is also acting Consul for France here, and asked him to endeavour to get the prisoner released. The priest, who, one is inclined to think, did not know the particulars of the case in question, wrote an official letter to the Cheng Hai Shien, in whose yamen Ying Ho is incarcerated, and requested him to set the latter free, as he did not recollect from whom he bought the silk and moreover was prepared to pay \$300 the value of the stolen silk, while Hu Mao was willing to accept the amount and so settle the case. The Cheng Hai Shien forwarded the priest's communication to the Commissioner, who would not consent to the release of Ying Ho before knowing the actual thief or thieves of the silk. As Ying Ho, whose peculiar behaviour tends to throw great suspicion on himself, does not want to own up how he came in possession of the silk, he still lingers in prison.

The above, it will be observed, is purely a civil case which was properly tried by the parties concerned. One wonders then what justification a Romanist missionary has to interfere in a secular affair on behalf of a person who does not belong to his flock and whom he even does not know.

I have heard of two more cases of missionary intervention which I reserve for another occasion.

WEIHAIWEI.

[FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

Weihaiwei, 5th June.

THE CHANGE OF PLAN.

Until the world may be taken into the confidence of ministerial councils in London, the reasons that actuated the order for the conversion of this port from a military and naval station into an aspirant for commercial prominence, will naturally be subjected to varied surmise, and no one may say by authority that one opinion is not as good as another. The marvels of English accomplishment in the East justify a wide play of imagination as to what the magic of that colonial touch may produce. It must be said, however, that talk of establishing here another Hongkong sounds much more plausible at a distance than upon close view, for apart from the consideration that this is property in leasehold rather than in fee the physical aspect, both afloat and ashore, is as far as possible from promise of ready development. Lay observation may appreciate tolerably the merit of the place as a picket and a shelter. It so appealed to the Chinese, who first fortified it. Japan thought it a sufficient menace to its fleet and troops to be worth capturing in the war between that country and China, and held it as a rendezvous on this coast until the lease to England was signed at Peking, in July, 1898. Common inference that England wished it because Port Arthur had been leased to Russia had as a basis a clause in the English lease providing for the new tenure so long as Port Arthur should remain in the occupation of Russia. In this light the lease needed no further explanation, for if Weihaiwei may not be said to command Port Arthur, its location suggests the possibility that if England were to view with concern any performance of Russia, such of the Russian

fleet as lay at the time at or near Port Arthur might find it inconvenient to extend its operations outside the blockade that England would place over the Gulf of Pechili. For nearly four years both Governments proceeded along similar lines preparing to enforce friendship by fortifications. The hills around Port Arthur furnished scenes of no greater industry than those enacted on the island of Linnung, which guards this harbour. The town whose designation comprises the immediate territory was ready made, on the mainland, corresponding to the new town at Port Arthur which the Russian authorities are constructing for all manner of civilian life, thus emphasising as strongly in one case as in the other the primary and essential purposes in acquiring the leaseholds, to compel peace. One may now roam at will with a camera over the heights of Liukung, and find nothing worth a shot. There had been forts on every eminence, needing only guns to complete them. Now there are broken embankments. The dismantling process has removed gratings, ventilators, gateways, and all hardware and other contrivance which in a district of free roaming might tempt the cupidity of native dealers in junk.

THE QUESTION OF COST.

It may never be possible to know how much the fortifications cost. An estimate would probably be conservative which placed Chinese, Japanese, and English outlay on them at £25,000. Whatever part of that sum England may have spent is of course sheer waste. It had practical value at no time, considering that the forts were never mounted during English military occupation. The outlay, large or small, may affect England not at all, but since time must count there as elsewhere, contrasts between evidences of wasted labour on the heights and neglect in the harbour may well impress the civil administration that has now taken over the place to make a commercial port of it. Water covers a configuration offshore which may be fairly judged by the land view, abounding in peaks and declivities. Close to land ocean liners might float, if they were only constructed so as to climb a ridge of hill that turns the outlying sea, when excited, into breakers. No one yet knows whether or not the time, money, and labour thrown away on the forts would have removed this ridge, thus providing a harbour that would stand some sort of comparison with that of Hongkong, but from casual inspection one might suppose that the work might be accomplished in four years, at no greater outlay than that already vainly made. Piers might of course be built to the ridge and get an outer foundation of undoubted solidity, at the expense of contracting harbour space hardly too large for the small business that has heretofore come to it. Possibly by the time the port shall rival in business that of Hongkong, ships will be made of rubber, capable of compression with the discharge of cargo.

WHAT HAS BEEN GAINED.

Military and naval occupation served certain purposes admirably. Although peace now smiles upon this part of China, the most serene optimist will admit that there was always some comfort in the assurance that men, guns, ships, and supplies, under the English flag, occupied this lookout. If a chance remains of peril to foreign interests, at imperial instance, or connivance, or by any sort of racial or fanatic freak, in this region the preventive, or curbing, or quelling influence would be applied. Now that the big policemen here, who did little except patrol a quiet beat, has burned his uniform and gone into trade, it may appear that the mere badge of authority had its uses.

THE WEIHAIWEI REGIMENT.

Of the native regiment, recruited and stationed here, it may be said that the English sent into the field two years ago no sturdier or better behaved troops. One Chinese characteristic of which less has been written than the subject justifies is that of memory so strong by nature and so capacious as to provoke suspicion that it must overflow from the head and find excess storage in the queue. The strands of clan woven all through the empire like network perpetuate grievances of ancestors whose marrow ceased to feed cabbage-fields centuries ago. Their living descendants may not know or care whether the original quarrel was over a pig, a

dog, or a woman, but they were born to hate each other and to transmit that hatred to their children. If they cease to give frequent combat after a few hundred years, the clan still lives, and its activity may be invoked for any purpose. The Weihaiwei regiment did not do much fighting, but it helped those who fought, it assisted materially in the invasion, it was a factor in the destruction of life and property which the ill-fated troops effected, and if every man who then belonged to it is not marked, the Chinese nature has indeed reformed. Some recruiting has since occurred, especially within the last year, when original terms of enlistment began to expire. It is said that among the stalwart newcomers are men who got their first lessons in soldiering as Boxers, and that some of the old ones believe that these men enlisted solely that they might learn everything possible of the doings of the regiment in the campaign of 1900, for reference in the execution of individual revenges. At any rate, notice of an impending battle could not have been more alarming than was the news that the regiment would be disbanded, and the campaigners of 1900 who cannot make sure of ample protection here, or get employment in some distant British community, are said to be in a frame of mind to thank Buddha when each descending sun finds their heads and shoulders still connected.

A SUMMER RESORT.

While it remained a military and naval station, Weihaiwei promised to develop into a flourishing summer resort. Like many other places, it is the healthiest spot in China. How natives die, or whether they die, is of no importance, since nothing ever happens to foreigners. Graveyards merely vary the pleasing landscape. The hills furnish bracing walks and resting-places before the sun mounts high, or when it becomes low, and in the middle of the day the water that splashes on the beach is not nearly so yellow as it is at Chefoo. The one hotel has found it possible to command several times the usual rates, because of the charms of the place, the landlord arguing that since he must rent by the year, and can keep open only three months, the needs of his family force him to charge accordingly. Some of the visitors have built bungalows not far from the hotel, and altogether the summer colony was no more dreary than is inevitable when wives are deprived of the society of their husbands and children, business keeping the former tied down to various Chinese and Japanese ports and the native nurses demanding the exclusive devotion of the latter. What the colony will do now that there will be no military or naval officers to steal time from their duties for the entertainment of strangers, may perhaps be judged from a report from Peitaiho, the missionary resort up the coast, of unexampled activity in building construction. That resort enticed society before Weihaiwei, but since the Boxers left no stone on top of another there, the impetus in that direction shifted here. It would appear that the missionaries are gathering fresh hope.

NOT A NEW HONGKONG.

If a new Hongkong is to be created, there ought to be something that it can feed with trade, as Hongkong is a feeder for places uncounted and easy of access. The native population can scrub along as it has always done. In this vicinity it is not to be reckoned as a trade factor, for although the Chinese compute thirty thousand as the population of the native city, it buys and sells less than a white village of as many hundred. Back over the hills there are people enough, but the only way to reach them is by climbing for fifty miles, through dust in summer and mud in winter. The local civilian white population formerly never exceeded twenty persons, all here to sell rather than to buy, and with the substitution of civil for military and naval authority there will not ordinarily be more than about one hundred white men in the town. It does not appear that the Germans have any present intention of coming anywhere near Weihaiwei with a railroad, and they alone have undoubted right to lay rails in the province. It may be doubted if even the Chinese may initiate railway or other improvement in the province without German sanction. By the Kiaochau Convention, which defined German railway and mining concessions, four years ago, it was expressly provided that Germany should

have first call in any and every provincial enterprise. One paragraph of the Convention stipulated that, should the Chinese at any time form schemes for the development of Shantung, for the execution of which it might be necessary to obtain foreign capital, the Chinese government, or whatever Chinese might be interested, should in the first instance apply to German capitalists. The Convention also stipulated that application should be made to German manufacturers for the machinery and materials, before approaching manufacturers of any other government. Should German capitalists or manufacturers decline to take up the business, and only in that event, the Chinese were to be at liberty to obtain money and machinery or materials from sources of other nationality than German.

BRITAIN AND GERMANY IN SHANTUNG.

Nor did the Germans confine themselves in their Shantung undertakings to engagements with China. They thought it prudent to get an expression from England, and succeeded to the extent of an assurance from Lord Salisbury that his government recognised and would respect the Convention. In military times this was commonly construed to mean that England had no thought of railway construction in the province, an assumption quite reasonable in view of the intention then supposed to be entertained of using this port merely as a military and naval station, and never attempting to do general business here. Whether the assurance definitely committed England or not to non-interference with German railway monopoly seems now to be doubtful, and with a view of testing the question, application has been forwarded to London for authority to proceed with negotiations for right of way to various inland points. If favourable action may be had, the matter will naturally go to Peking and there be considered diplomatically. No one supposes that England will seek occasion to offend Germany in this province. As the one territory of direct German authority in China, Shantung will hardly become the scene of acute differences unless some government may wish to upset the Convention of 1898. German disclaimers of intention to close the province against mining concessions to others than Germans, while not easily reconciled with the clause of the Convention summarised above, would seem to bar out complaint on any state of facts yet established, whatever else may be thought of it.

RAILWAYS AND MINES.

Another clause in the Convention may be read with possible profit by those who wish additional aid in constraining the diplomatic disclaimer. It provides that the Chinese government shall allow German subjects to hold and develop mining property for ten miles on each side of the two lines of German railways, and along the entire length of the lines. Places where mining operations may be undertaken are designated, along both lines. The article provides that Chinese capital may be invested in the operations, and that arrangements for the work shall be made by a joint conference of Chinese and German representatives. All German subjects engaged in such work shall be properly protected and welcomed by Chinese authorities, and profits shall be fairly divided between Chinese and German shareholders, according to their respective interests. If these terms are not monopolistic, they will probably be commonly read as devised to close the door in Shantung against European mining investments, and yet as justifying the German government in declaring the door not closed. The fact, as might be expected, is that German capital is in the railway alone, and no evidence has appeared that their capital will be invited or welcomed in the mines. Railway construction has now proceeded something more than one hundred miles, and the Germans are running trains inland for sixty miles or so. They expect to reach some promising coal-mines in the summer, and will establish a train service to them as soon as conditions warrant it. Meanwhile they will proceed across the province, passing far south of this point. Construction has not been hurried at any time. At the present rate, indeed, seven years will have been occupied in building about three hundred miles of line. Possibly capital has not been specially eager in the enterprise in spite of the good things said and written about the country. If

that is the case, inducements would require to be uncommonly attractive to draw a branch line to this port through a hill region of barren surface and to which prospectors have never turned their attention. On the other hand, since one avowed purpose of the trans-provincial road is to connect the sea at Kiaochau, or at Tsintan, with the Imperial railways extending south from Peking, the connection to be made at the Shantung border, a connection within the province might be conceivable, if it did not conflict with German interests.

BRITISH PROSPECTS

It may be easier than now to figure out this prospect when the London purpose in the conversion of Weihaiwei shall become so clear as not to permit variation of opinion regarding it. If German ambition may be gauged by the commercial strides which Germans have made in recent years all over the East, it is not likely to be satisfied if the sea terminus of its rails shall be merely a military and naval station, a dumping-place for mining ore, or even if it shall combine both of these functions. While German merchants and shipping lines have found it exceedingly profitable to do business at English ports, they probably feel important enough to want a Hongkong of their own. There is no place where conditions so favour that effort as in this province, and a proposition that they help the English to establish a commercial port which would aspire to capture the business of the North, converting thereby their own terminus into a coal-yard or a quartermaster's depot, looks just now full of hope. From all reports, it will be safe for the German Minister at Peking, or the government at Berlin, to declare that Germany has no intention of shutting out other foreign railway enterprise in Shantung, for unhappily that test in behalf of which application has gone forward to London, is not believed to have substantial design behind it. Assurance that no political obstacle would be thrown in the way of a road, would probably do little more at present than give a promoter a lead in chase for capital. He might yet be very far from inducing money to build from an undeveloped harbour, through fifty miles of mountainous nowhere, on the chance of finding a strong foreign rival at the inland end, and with the odds heavy that further indefinite construction, at an outlay not to be estimated, would be required to make the original investment productive.

WEIHAIWEI & THE YANGTSE.

Before German commercial progress became so confident as now, and before German ships and merchants were getting a large share of the business at all the foreign ports in China, prophets declared that some day, in the not distant future, this port would be abandoned by the English and passed over to the Germans, who might then have Shantung all to themselves. In return the Germans would obligingly get out of the Yangtze, and leave that rich stream and its tributary lands to English trade. That forecast sounded tolerably plausible when first uttered, two or three years ago, and the present shift in the status of this port might be related to it had foreign advance in China proceeded in the last two years at the pace of the preceding thirty years. By the giant strides that trade is now making, Germany has become so well entrenched in the Yangtze that it would get much the worse of the bargain if it were to quit Middle China in exchange for Weihaiwei. Besides, it is not at all clear how England would be benefitted if the Germans quit the Yangtze, unless they took along the Japanese, who are invading that region with all the energy and enthusiasm of a people determined to out-foreign the foreigners in commercial push; and also took along the Americans, who are feeling their way there as well as in other parts of China heretofore untried.

THE FUTURE.

Except on the ground, it does not much matter what destiny may be planned for this port, if it is to be of no further use as a political watchtower. For that use it seemed well fitted. The traders here wonder why treasure was poured into the forts if they were not to be mounted, but it may be doubted if that question would bother them if an answer to it would remove their misgivings that the withdrawal of the military and naval forces may knock them out of business. There

is clearly a boom in commercial ports in China. The leadership of Hongkong as a southern distributor, the rapid growth of Shanghai, and the crying need of housing for the bulky cargoes that reach Tientsin, find counterpart in preparations to make Tsintau a great commercial depot, in the improvement of Chinwangtao, the northern Chinese port that has been kept open through cold weather, and in the Russian haste to build a model commercial city at Dalny. If there is room for these new places, ill-favoured Weihaiwei may also crowd into the omnibus.

PAKHOI.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Pakhoi, 16th June.

NEW ROUTE FOR EMIGRANTS.

Consequent upon the recent restraint placed in Hongkong on native passengers from this port, the emigrants instead of proceeding to the Straits via Hongkong, as usual, are being diverted to Mintok—a port on Banca island in the Malay Archipelago. The first vessel available for this purpose was the German steamer *Choufa*, which arrived here from Hongkong in ballast on the 7th inst., and left on the 9th with over 100 emigrants for Mintok, via Hoihow; she touched at the latter port for the purpose of taking therefrom a few more migrants who wish to work abroad. The French steamer *Hoihao* followed on the 13th inst. for the same destination, with nearly 400 emigrants. Every precaution had been taken for the comfort of the men and to avoid shipping any against his own free will. None, too, are allowed to proceed who are sick or otherwise incapable for the work required of them at the port of destination; in the case of those by the *Hoihao*, I hear that the French Consul, M. Flayelle, accompanied by Dr. Abatucci, proceeded on board the steamer to examine the emigrants before departure. A few men were turned ashore as unsuitable.

DEPARTURES.

Dr. E. B. Horder and Mrs. Horder, of the Church Missionary Society Hospital here, left on the 7th instant for Hongkong and England. Mr. Fritz Materna, a sistant in the Imperial Customs at this port, also took his departure on the same day for Shanghai, to which port he has been transferred on promotion.

THE WEATHER.

We were visited by a thunderstorm on the night of the 10-11th instant. Although the storm was not of long duration, some of the detonations were distinctly and inconveniently loud. Rain fell in torrents for a few hours both previous to and after the storm. It is quite hot. The thermometer to-day registered 92 deg. Fahr. in the shade.

THE DRAGON FESTIVAL.

The dragon-boat festival passed off this year quietly. The day being a settling-day amongst the native merchants, there was some "pressure." It was observed as a public holiday.

PLAGUE.

The plague continues without any marked alteration for good or bad. As a rule there are three or four cases a week, all fatal.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the P. & T. Times of the 14th inst.:

The Thirty-third Burmans are to relieve the Thirty-first now at Tong-han, Lu ni, etc.

On the 2nd instant the Coronation Celebration Subscription Fund in Hongkong stood at \$17,335; the Tientsin fund, collected from a British community not one tenth as large is over \$15,000, and compares wonderfully well with that of the Colony.

General de Wogack leaves Tientsin to-day by the 10.15 a.m. train. He goes to Port Arthur via Shanhaikwan, thence by Vladivostok and Siberian Railway to St. Petersburg.

Mr. L. C. Hopkins is gazetted as His Majesty's Consul-General for the Provinces of Chihli and Shantung. This only means that there has been a new territorial delimitation of the area of our Consul-General's jurisdiction.

Tientsin and Shanghai are each calling the other an "infected port." If we remember rightly the kettle and the pot once before entered on a verbal contest as to the depth of their turpitude in the way of blackness.

Mr. Harold F. P. per, the plaintiff in the recent action for libel against the proprietors of the *Peking and Tientsin Times* appeared before the Consul-General on Tuesday to be examined as to his ability to pay the taxed costs of that action (\$235). He was commanded to pay \$60 per month until the total sum was met.

His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Cyrille Vladimirovitch practically concluded his visit to Peking on Tuesday night, when he slept in the saloon car at Chien Men. He went through to Shanhaikwan the next day. His Highness did not get off at Tientsin, but held a miniature reception in his car at the station. He was accompanied by General de Wogack as far as Tongku.

The Royal Welch had a sad fatality on Tuesday this week in the suicide of Private Ford. He was a man of exceptionally good character and might reasonably have looked for his discharge at an early date. His despondency seems to have arisen in petty punishments of a very mild description; the punishments in turn had their origin in the fact that he celebrated the Peace in South Africa somewhat too freely. Ford was greatly liked in the regiment, and his death has been keenly felt by his comrades.

The Russian Consular authorities in this port have verbally intimated to the shipping agencies that quarantine regulations will be enforced against ships from Tongku—presumably by the Russians. The Harbour authorities in Chefoo and Port Arthur have declared Tientsin, Tongku, &c., "infected," and both the *Hacan* and *El Dorado* have been placed in quarantine for three days. The shipping agents in Chefoo are trying to persuade the Taotai to establish an isolation camp, which would at once reduce the delay in the contingency of any cases being found on board.

It is understood that the Li family has engaged a Hanlin of the name of Wu to write, edit and publish a "Life" of the great Chung Tang. The task is an enormous one, and will involve at least six years of labour. Wu Hanlin will receive Tls. 3,000 per annum.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

"A GRAVE PERIL TO MISSIONS."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
S. Paul's College,
Hongkong, 21st June.

SIR.—Your leader in your issue of Friday last on the Rev. Arnold Foster's letter anent the use by heathen of the foreign missionary's name or card, in order to further their own ends in Chinese courts, draws notice to a practice which is of common occurrence, and which will become commoner as the foreigner become more popular, or better known on the mainland of China.

The B shop of Victoria told me once that it was his practice when at Ningpo to stamp his Chinese visiting cards with a seal which he kept in his own possession, and of which the impress could not be imitated. Any unstamped card would thus be detected as fraudulent.

About a fortnight ago I received a letter from the District Magistrate at San Ui, saying that in a recent case, one of the parties, a heathen, had used my name as one of his backers. The man was of course quite unknown to me. I was glad to be able to send to the Magistrate a printed copy of two resolutions passed unanimously by the members of my mission (Church Missionary Society) in this field, which show the attitude adopted by us after careful consideration of the whole question. These resolutions are now printed in large characters and posted in each of our chapels. I venture to append them, as they may interest your reader.—Yours, etc.

GEORGE A. BUNBURY.

(Enclosure.)

RESOLUTIONS OF C.M.S. SOUTH CHINA CONFERENCE.

September 24-26th, 1901.

"That C.M.S. Native Agents be forbidden without previous sanction from their Superintendent to have any business with the Yamen, or to undertake business for

Christians or others in law-suits or local feuds, on pain of dismissal.

"That in the opinion of this conference the European missionary, while showing sympathy with his native brethren in their troubles, should not interfere in any business with the Yamen, nor allow interference in any such business on the part of native agents under his superintendence, without previous consent of the local governing body of the Mission."

THE CHINESE INDEMNITY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 23rd June.

SIR.—A few days ago I was talking with a well known Chinaman about the reduction of the indemnity. He said that he hoped the Western Powers would be careful as to how the reduction was used, as he feared it would not be for the benefit of the people but would find its way into state coffers and the people would still be forced to pay as they are doing at present. This could not but be a hindrance, and the seeds of discord and enmity to foreigners would continue to grow and bear fruit. He therefore hoped that all those who should come to understand this point would use their powers to urge some methods that would benefit the people as differentiated from the officials. He suggested a method, viz., that the reduction of indemnity should be annually placed in the hands of consuls or other responsible Europeans and liberal and honest Chinese, to be used one-half for new methods of sanitation and railroads and the other half for colleges and schools; the profits of the railroads being used for the purpose of carrying on the institutions of learning as above mentioned, in which both Chinese and Western education might be given. The rail road would help to extend commerce and the colleges to enlighten the people and so sow the seeds of peace for the future. I suppose difficulties would present themselves to hinder such good objects being carried out, but surely the idea is worthy of consideration and assistance in letting it be known in responsible quarters. Thanking you in anticipation of the insertion of this.—Yours, etc.,

W.

"THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 23rd June.

SIR.—In the report given in your to-day's issue of a meeting of Chinese residents held to discuss the Public Health, etc., Bill, the Chairman is reported to have spoken of the "foreign community." Do you not consider it time that the Chinese residing here were made to understand that the only residents who are not foreigners in Hongkong are British subjects?—Yours, etc.,

T. ATKINS (JR.).

WATKINS, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of Watkins, Ltd., chemists, was held on the 21st inst. at the Company's office, 66 Queen's Road Central, for the purpose of passing a resolution to be submitted for confirmation as a special resolution to a second extraordinary meeting to be subsequently convened. Mr. G. A. Watkins presided, and the others present were Mr. T. H. Reid and Mr. Chan A Fook. The articles required the presence of two members only, representing a tenth of the subscribed capital. It was stated that the General Managers (Messrs. Watkins and Chan A Fook) held between them 2,750 shares, representing a third of the capital.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen the meeting is called for the purpose of altering the Articles of Association so as to provide an increase of salary for the General Managers. I will read the notice calling the meeting.

This notice having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said.—The salary that your General Managers have been working on is rather less than what they were earning fifteen years ago, and what with the increased cost of living and the fall in exchange, speaking for myself personally, who have to remit money home to support a wife and family, it can't be done with the salary we are getting. I therefore propose the resolution "That the Articles of Association be altered by substituting for

the words five thousand seven hundred dollars in article No. 63 the words eight thousand seven hundred dollars. Will any one second it?

Mr. REID—Before I second it, Mr. Chairman, I should like to know if the General Managers have been receiving, in addition to this \$5,700, a bonus at the rate of 25 per cent. on the difference between the nett profits for the year and 12 per cent. on the subscribed capital? Have they been receiving anything?

The CHAIRMAN—Only once, when we paid 12 per cent. dividend the year before last—in 1899, the only year we paid a 12 per cent. dividend. We are not entitled to that unless we pay 12 per cent. dividend to the shareholders.

Mr. REID—This is a proposal to increase the remuneration of the General Managers by \$1,000. Is the division of that left to the General Managers themselves?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Mr. REID—Then this does not include the pay of the staff?

The CHAIRMAN—Oh no, only the General Managers. Their salary was fixed much too low for the start, and what with the exchange falling and other expenses added on—the expense of living—it is too low, and besides, the business is worth it. The General Managers have made a very considerable saving in expense to the Company by having to do the work themselves—a far greater saving per month than what you are asked to vote now for increase of salary.

Mr. REID—Well, Mr. Chairman, a certain amount of responsibility attaches on me as the only shareholder attending the meeting in addition to yourselves. At the same time, I don't like to bring up an unpleasant matter referred to at last annual meeting of the shareholders, but I must ask, will the shareholders have returned to them the amount of money that was then said to be outstanding?

The CHAIRMAN—Certainly; that was the object of it.

Mr. REID—What sort of guarantee is to be given that it will be repaid? Have we simply got to take your word for it?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, and you have the auditor's word for it.

Mr. REID—I don't want to raise any unpleasantness.

The CHAIRMAN—Oh no. That is the object of the increase—to return the money.

Mr. REID—In the circumstances, I have much pleasure in seconding that the increase be granted.

The motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN intimated before the proceedings terminated that a confirmatory meeting would be held on Saturday.

HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO., LD.

The following is the report of the Board of Directors to the thirteenth ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders, to be held at the Company's Offices, No. 4, Queen's Buildings, at 12.30 p.m., on Tuesday, 8th July:—

The balance at credit of profit and loss account is \$65,737.96; after deducting directors' fees (\$3,000.) there remains the sum of \$62,737.96 available for appropriation, and your directors recommend that this be disposed of as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 8 per cent.:	
Say 80 cents per share on	
30,000 fully paid shares...	\$24,000.00
Say 40 cents per share on	
30,000 part paid shares...	12,000.00
	<hr/> \$36,000.00
To write off plant account for	
depreciation	25,492.57
To carry forward to next account...	1,275.39
	<hr/> \$62,737.96

The manager's report attached hereto gives usual particulars of work carried out during the year &c.

DIRECTORS.

Hon. J. Thurburn resigned his seat on his departure from the Colony, and Mr. G. H. Medhurst was invited to take his place on the Board. This appointment requires confirmation. Hon. O. P. Chater, C.M.G., is now absent on leave, and in accordance with the Articles of Association, he and Hon. G. W. Dickson retire, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. J. C. Peter, and Gershom Stewart (the latter, in place of Mr. Murray Stewart, who is absent from the Colony). These gentlemen offer themselves for re-election.

C. S. SHARP,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 20th June, 1902.

MANAGER'S REPORT.

Gentlemen,—I have to report that the lamps and fuses connected to the company's incandescent lighting service on the 1st June were equivalent to about 16,300 lamps of 8 candle-power. The number of arc lamps now in operation is 85. The number of lifts operated by the power service has been increased to 9. During the year, the three original incandescent lighting sets, laid down in 1890, have been discarded, and a steam alternator of much larger capacity has been erected in the space thus rendered available. A duplicate steam alternator for working the day-load has also been recently received, and is now in process of erection.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 23rd June.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THEIR HONOURS W. MEIGH
GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND T.
SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING
PUISNE JUDGE).

THE KWONG LEE V. CHAN MING CHI
AND WONG SHIN CHO.

Judgment was given in the appeal against the decision in this case, which was originally brought in the Lower Court by the Kwong Lee, 100, Connaught Road, who claimed from the defendants, Chan Ming Chi, 63, Bonham Strand and Wong Shin Cho, 4, Ice House Street, recovery of a sum of \$675.28, alleged to be due to the plaintiffs by the defendants as partners in the Po Hing firm, lately carrying on business at 249, Des Voeux Road as rice-dealers, but now in bankruptcy. The sum of \$675.28 as to \$657.32, part thereof, was alleged to be due to the plaintiffs by the defendants in their capacity of partners as aforesaid for goods sold and delivered by the plaintiffs to the Po Hing firm; and as to \$17.96, further part of the said sum of \$675.28, for commission agreed to be paid by the defendants, as such partners, to the plaintiffs, and as to \$4.81, the balance of the total claim, for coolie hire paid by the plaintiffs for the defendants as such partners and at their request. Alternatively the plaintiff claimed that sum as due to be paid to them by the defendants as having represented themselves to be partners in the Po Hing firm; as damages for breach of contract; or as damages for fraudulent misrepresentation. After hearing evidence, Mr. Justice Sercombe Smith gave judgment, on 30th May, for defendants with costs.

The plaintiffs appealed against that decision on certain points of law and upon the facts. In the special case the appellants stated that on the hearing it was stated by counsel in summing up for the plaintiffs that it did not appear to him that the claim made on the ground of representation of partnership could be sustained, and the whole question for the Court to decide was whether or not the defendants were in fact partners in the Po Hing firm. On the hearing it was proved that the sum in question was due by Po Hing firm to the plaintiffs and that one Wong Sit Fan had been the manager of the said firm. The defendants denied that they were or had ever been partners in the firm and alleged that Wong Sit Fan was the sole owner thereof. Evidence had been given by several witnesses, all of whom were creditors of the firm, and received without objection taken at the time, that on the 3rd day of March last after the firm had suspended payment a meeting of the creditors was held at which Wong Sit Fan attended but at which neither of the defendants was present, and that at this meeting the said Wong Sit Fan stated that the defendants were partners in the firm and made a list in writing of the names of the partners and the share of each in the firm. The said

list was put in and in it appeared the names of both the defendants. Evidence was given by Ip Oi Shan that the defendant Wong Shin Cho stated to the witness that he was a partner in the firm, upon the strength of which statement witness resumed dealing with the firm. Wong Shin Cho denied the truth of this evidence. Kwok Sham Yuen, another witness, stated that the defendant Chang Ming Shi had been formerly a co-partner of his in the Po Hing firm. Chang Ming Shi denied that he had ever been a partner. The witness Kwok Sham Yuen stated, when recalled, that the name, Chan U How Tong, appearing in one of the firm's books was another name of the defendant Chan Ming Chi. This the latter denied. Objection being taken to the admission of the book in evidence, the Court, without examination of the book, held that the book should be treated not as an account book but as a bundle of documents, as no evidence had been given by the person who kept the book that it was a book of account or regularly kept, or that either of the defendants had any knowledge of the book. Counsel for the defendants when addressing the Court at the conclusion of the case raised the objection that the paper written by Wong Sit Fan and put in evidence as aforesaid was not evidence against the defendants. He at the same time objected to the evidence of Kwok Sham Yuen as to Chan Ming Shi's former partnership with him. In giving judgment His Honour the Acting Puisne Judge held "(1) that the said paper written by Wong Sit Fan was not in itself evidence of partnership on the part of the defendants; (2) that the alleged admission by Wong Shin Cho that he was a partner was not in itself evidence that he was at the time in fact a partner, but only such as would make him liable as a partner to the person to whom such alleged admission was made or to any other person acting on the strength of such admission; (3) that the statement by the witness Kwok Sham Yuen that he had been a partner with Chan Ming Chi in the said firm was not in itself receivable evidence of the fact of the existence at the time referred to of a partnership between himself and Chan Ming Shi in the said firm." The questions for the opinion of the appeal Court were:—(1) Was the evidence as within set forth which was admitted without objection afterwards rightly rejected? (2) Was the evidence of Kwok Sham Yuen as to the partnership between himself and Chan Ming Chi rightly rejected? (3) Was the alleged admission by the defendant Wong Shin Cho that he was a partner rightly rejected? (4) Was the entry in the said book rightly rejected as not being evidence of partnership?

The appeal was heard before the Full Court on 20th, 21st and 23rd inst. Mr. M. Slade, barrister-at-law, instructed by Mr. J. Scott Harston, of Messrs. Ewens & Harston, solicitors, appearing for the appellants (plaintiffs); and Mr. T. Morgan Phillips, barrister-at-law, instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson, of Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist, solicitors, for the respondents (defendants).

After hearing parties,

The Court dismissed the appeal, with general costs, but on the points of law, decided in favour of the appellants on two points (questions 2 and 3 as given above), and the Court therefore decided that, so far as the special case was concerned, each party should bear its own costs.

The consequence of the decision is that the judgment of the Court below stands.

A report from the Japanese Consul at Newchwang, dated the 7th inst., states that out of 1,500 railway coolies landed there on the previous day by a steamer from Tientsin, 87 were attacked by cholera. Seventeen died in a few hours, and the remainder were isolated. No cases had been reported among the inhabitants of Newchwang.

It is reported, says a Peking telegram to the Osaka Asahi, that the Russian Minister to Peking will consent to the transfer of the Peking and Shanhaikwan railway upon condition that China alone undertakes the construction of railways in North China and prohibits any outside powers from doing the work. It is further reported that Great Britain will not object to the Russian proposal.

THE STRANDING OF THE "ROBERT DICKENSON."

OFFICIAL ENQUIRY.

A Marine Court sat at the Harbour Master's Office on the 20th inst. to enquire into the circumstances attending the stranding of the British steamship *Robert Dickenson*. The Court was constituted as follows:—Hon. Commander R. Murray Rumsey, R.N., Stipendiary Magistrate (presiding); Lieut. Frederick W. H. James, R.N., H.M.S. *Tamar*; Mr. Oswald Percival Marshall, master of the British s.s. *Empress of India*; and Mr. John Greig Dorward, master of the British s.s. *Crown of Arragon*.

Mr. E. J. Grist of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors, appeared for the master.

A letter was read from Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist asking for an official enquiry into the case on behalf of Mr. Sidney Frederick McDonnell, until lately master of the *Robert Dickenson*, but discharged by the owners on account of the mishap to his vessel. There was also read the warrant constituting the Court.

S. F. McDonnell, said he was master of the vessel at the time of the stranding, 20th ult. She was an iron ship of 1,331 tons, owned by the Shell Transport and Trading Co. She was on a voyage from Hongkong to Yokohama with a cargo of kerosene in bulk. She left Hongkong on 18th May. All went well till the 20th; at 2.10 a.m. they got into a fog. He was called, and the engines were put half-speed at 2.20. It was he who ordered the speed to be reduced. At 3.30 the engines were put slow. At that time he sent the chief officer to sound, but before the lead was got ready they heard the first gun from Ocksen signal station. The course was altered to northward. At 3.34 they heard the second gun. At 3.35 the ship struck on the north end of the island. The last bearings were taken on the previous evening. The ship went 9 knots when at full speed. He was steering to pass the island two miles to the north. The course was N.E.; he afterwards altered the course to give a little more room. At 3.30 he reckoned that the ship was 8 miles off the island. The Ocksen signal gun was fired three times when a ship's whistle was heard. His whistle had been going every three minutes from 2.20.

By Mr. Grist—From the time he was called at 2.20 a.m. he was on the bridge; the chief officer was also there. There was a look-out man on the forecastlehead. His opinion was that his whistle ought to be heard 3 miles off. He should have heard the answering gun 3 miles off at least. He did not expect to hear the gun as soon as he did.

Examination resumed—He considered it careful navigation to stand on while approaching a fog signal until the gun was heard.

Evan Perry, the first officer, said he was on the bridge on the morning of the 20th. He went on deck at 12 o'clock. The weather was a bit hazy. There was nothing in sight. He went on to give evidence corroborative of that given by the captain.

S. F. McDonnell, the master (recalled)—He did not think it necessary to allow for currents at this part because he considered them so unreliable.

By Captain Marshall—There was no counter in the engine-room, so there was no check on the speed.

The master, being asked if he wished to make any further statement, said that all he wished to say was that if the fog-signal gun had been properly fired the ship would not have gone ashore.

The finding of the Court was as follows:—We find that the British steamship *Robert Dickenson*, 82691, of which Sydney Frederick McDonnell was master, the number of whose certificate is 243 of St. John's, Newfoundland, left Hongkong on the 18th May on a voyage to Yokohama; the *Robert Dickenson* was a tank steamer of 1,331 net register tons, and she had on board a full cargo of kerosene oil in bulk; that about 3.34 on the morning of the 20th May, the ship struck on the western extreme of Ocksen Island and remained on shore for about 3 hours, eventually coming off with a rising tide and the assistance of the engines. It appears from the evidence that the ship ran into a fog at about 2.20 a.m. on the 20th and that the master estimated

that at 3.30 she was about 8 miles from Ocksen. In making the estimate, however, the Court is of opinion that a proper allowance had not been made by the master for current nor for the error of the compass and that the distance done as shown by the patent log was relied on in spite of the current, which had been clearly shown in the log as existing ever since leaving Hongkong. As a matter of fact, if the allowances had been made for current, compass and patent log, which the evidence and the logs show were necessary, the position of the ship works out to be almost exactly the one she was found in, namely, the Island of Ocksen. The master also appears to have unduly relied for the navigation of the ship on the fog-signal gun on Ocksen. Having fully considered the evidence, the Court is of opinion that the *Robert Dickenson* has not been navigated in a proper and seamanlike manner and that the casualty was due to this, which they are of opinion amounts to a wrongful act or default on the part of the master, and they therefore direct that his certificate be suspended for a period of three months from this date. The Court learns from the evidence, with surprise, that the ship was not fitted with a revolution counter in the engine-room, making it very difficult to set the ship to a given speed; and in coming to their conclusion the Court has taken this fact into full consideration. The Court further direct that a first-mate certificate be issued during the period of suspension if the master so desires.

The Court rose.

THE SHANGHAI NEWSPAPER LIBEL CASE.

On the 18th inst. at H.B.M. Supreme Court, Shanghai, the case *H. D. O'Shea v. T. C. Cowen* came on before Mr. F. S. A. Bourne, Acting Chief Justice, and Messrs F. Large, J. E. Judah, R. Viccajee, J. Valentine, and T. Cook (jurors). Mr. D. McNeill and Mr. F. Ellis appeared on behalf of the plaintiff, and Mr. V. Drummond and Mr. A. M. Latter the defendant.

The petition read as follows:—The petition of Henry David O'Shea of Shanghai in the Empire of China the above-named Plaintiff shows as follows:—

The Plaintiff is a British subject, residing at Shanghai, and is and has been for some years past, the Proprietor and Editor of a daily newspaper published in Shanghai called the *China Gazette* and also of a weekly newspaper published at Shanghai called the *China Gazette Weekly Edition*. Plaintiff is also and was during the year 1900 the Shanghai Correspondent of a daily newspaper published in London called the *Daily Express*. The Defendant is a British subject residing at Shanghai and is the Editor of a daily newspaper published in Shanghai called the *Shanghai Times*. The Defendant falsely and maliciously wrote and published or falsely and maliciously published or caused or procured to be published on the 18th day of January, 1902, in the said *Shanghai Times* of and concerning the Plaintiff the words following:—[Then follows in full the article entitled "The Shanghai Liar."]

The petition goes on to say that in consequence the Plaintiff, who has been much prejudiced and injured in his credit and reputation, claims Tls. 15,000 damages. The Defendant's answer is as follows:—

1.—The Defendant denies the allegations contained in paragraph 1 of the Petition.

2.—The Defendant admits that he is a British subject and the Editor of the Paper known as the *Shanghai Times*.

3.—In answer to paragraph 3 of the Petition the Defendant denies he wrote or published or caused or procured to be published of the Plaintiff the words set forth herein as alleged and further denies that the words commencing from "The Shanghai Liar" down to "This was the parentage of the Massacre telegram" were written of the Plaintiff.

As to the residue of the said words the Defendant denies that they bear the meaning alleged in the said paragraph.

4.—The said words mentioned in the preceding paragraph hereof in so far as they state the Plaintiff telegraphed to England false reports of the Massacre in Peking as far as his conscience permitted him and that the said

Daily Express published the said false reports and that Plaintiff had a chance of writing a first contradiction of the massacre or some reassuring message but that instead he or the said *Daily Express* told a lie big enough to put the devil in the amateur class and true in substance and in fact. Particulars of the said false reports and lies are delivered herewith and exceed three folios.

5.—As to the residue of the said words mentioned in paragraph 3 hereof the Defendant says that the same were part of a newspaper article which article was in so far as it applied to the Plaintiff a fair and bona fide comment upon the conduct of Plaintiff in his public character as the nominal Shanghai correspondent of the London *Daily Express* a public newspaper and was printed and published as and for such comment and without any malicious motive or intent whatsoever.

After the petition, answer, and particulars of the case had been read, Mr. McNeill addressed the jury. He said they would be well aware that what they had to decide in this case was whether a certain article published in the *Shanghai Times* was a libel on the plaintiff. It was not within his province to define what a libel was, as his Lordship would give a definition, but he might state what a very learned judge, the late Justice Blackburne, defined as a libel—"Any written statement published without lawful justification or excuse and calculated to convey to those to whom it was published an implication injurious to the plaintiff, or injuring him in his business, or holding him up to contempt, or hatred, or ridicule." The jury would have to define whether this statement was libellous, and if so, consider the further question of damages.

Mr. Drummond objected to this remark. He said that the only question was whether there was a libel upon the plaintiff.

Continuing, Mr. McNeill pointed out the reasons why a jury had been called to consider a case of this sort urging as one of the principal ones that they as practical men would be able to put a proper meaning on the words used in the telegrams. Their attention had been drawn to those terrible accounts of the siege of the Peking Legations. He supposed that some, if not all of them, were in Shanghai at the time, and he did not think they would need reminding of the very great anxiety which was felt with regard to the fate of the foreigners in Peking. Of course anxiety was felt more particularly by those who had friends and relatives amongst the people there. They must have known people who felt great anxiety concerning the fate of the Legations, and that anxiety, as they all knew, was very keen. They would remember that the really serious point about the situation—the thing we felt most of all—was the absolute lack of any real news for a very long period. There was nothing known to be true which came from Peking except that despairing message from Sir Robert Hart, and the cypher message sent in the middle of July—he believed it was on the 18th July—by the American Minister, Mr. Conger. Beyond these two messages there was nothing which could be regarded as certain news. That was a very serious thing—that we had no way of obtaining any real news at all; and they would remember how we all devoured everything of rumour or statement, whether it was true news or not, which came down to us, in the hope of finding something to relieve that fearful tension caused by silence. In Shanghai we were a little more closely connected with people in Peking than people at home, but at the same time there were persons at home who had friends and relatives there, and all of them were eager for news. But we were all in the same position and read everything which appeared in the form of news. It might occur to them to wonder how it was that all these details of massacres in Peking were published. The truth was that the majority of ordinary people had not a single ounce of imagination. These people, who formed the majority of the reading public, wanted to hear of the husbands seeing their wives slain and their children carried on spears through the streets, and all the rest of it. A person who heard these rumours could therefore picture to himself what occurred, and give a detailed account of carnage and massacre. That was an explanation which might have occurred to

them, but it was in no sense an excuse. There was no justification whatever for anyone to take up rumours and state them as facts for the mere gratification of the public which insisted upon them, without regard at all to the people who had friends who were declared in these reports to have been the victims of a massacre. At that time most people had come to the conclusion that the foreigners in Peking had perished, and the publication of such details must have caused inexpressible pain to the people whose friends were there. Regarded from that point of view he did not think that the words complained of were in any sense too strong. But they had to consider what was the real duty of a correspondent out here at that time. If they would recollect how eager we all were for information of any kind, whether it was a rumour, or a statement made by an official, he thought the jury would feel that it was the duty of a correspondent in Shanghai to put his newspaper at home in possession of whatever news came to him, so that the public might be as well informed as Shanghai people were. They would agree with him, he thought, that if a correspondent failed to report any rumour which came to him and which threw light on the question of whether the legations were safe or not, he would be committing a breach of his duty. He would not be stating fact what he heard from another person, but would let the public at home know as much as he knew. That was the very least a correspondent could do. There was a great difference between a proper discharge of duties in this direction and a deliberate invention of detail from given rumours. There was no word too strong to criticise the conduct of a man who charged a person with that crime in the public Press, so that the charge could be read by all, without he had grounds for his statement.

Upon the reassembling in the afternoon of the Court, Mr. McNeill sketched the career of the plaintiff as a newspaper correspondent in China since he arrived in Shanghai in 1886 up to the year 1900, when he was engaged to act as a special correspondent of the London *Daily Express* in Shanghai. He then went on to speak of the defendant. The defendant, in the early part of the year 1901, became connected with a person named Chesney Duncan, whose name they had already heard in the article complained of as editor and proprietor of the *Daily Press*. That newspaper, which started at the very beginning of 1901, was not continued for a long time under the name of *Daily Press*, but changed its name to that of the *New Press*. The first number of this paper under its new editorship referred to what was called the "massacre-mongers," and that served to show that from the first start of his occupation as a journalist in Shanghai the defendant had conceived the notion of dealing with the question of the publication of details with regard to these supposed Peking massacres. On the 16th January, while the defendant was still interested in this paper, a paragraph appeared referring to these massacre telegrams, in which the name of the plaintiff was distinctly mentioned. It expressed the intention of dealing with these telegrams and exposing the authorship of them, and it stated that the plaintiff would be rather sick when he read the expose which would follow. The connection of the defendant with the *New Press* did not last for ever, and he and Mr. Duncan separated. He would not like to think that they parted on good terms, because it seemed that shortly after the time of parting the defendant called on the plaintiff to supply him with an account of the manner in which the *New Press* had been conducted, and suggestion was made that the manner in which it was conducted was anything but creditable. This article was sent to the plaintiff, and for certain reasons it was not published. He could say this about the article, that it contained very strong reflections upon the partner of the defendant. This showed that the defendant had the idea, when he parted from the *New Press*, of writing something to the papers damaging to that journal. This article the plaintiff declined to publish, and wrote to the defendant informing him of his decision. Then the article was published in the *Shanghai Times*, a paper over which the defendant had control. It was a curious commentary on the methods of the defendant in dealing with his grievances.

It would be proved to them that this article which was published in the *Shanghai Times* was copied into a number of papers, and so not merely were its effects confined to Shanghai, but were extended to the whole public in India, and to the smaller public in Japan. There was no dispute between the plaintiff and the defendant as to the publication by the London *Daily Express* of these details. These publications, he thought, purported to be telegrams from the Shanghai correspondent of the *Daily Express*, and were editorial comments upon what purported to be telegraphic information. The *Daily Express* was not the only paper which published at that time details of the massacres; the *Daily Mail* published at the same time a very full telegram containing details of the massacre, and that telegram was reprinted in the *Times*, not by way of justification of the *Daily Mail* staff, but because the *Daily Mail*, being in possession of superior information, courteously volunteered that information, which was published with an acknowledgment of its source in the *Times*. At the same time, it should be noted that the massacre telegrams of the *Daily Mail*, *Express*, and *Times* were all published on the same day. He thought they would easily see that all these details in the *Daily Press* purported to be based upon telegraphic information. But it did not logically follow that the information was supplied by the plaintiff. The *Daily Express*, as a matter of fact, had other correspondents in Shanghai at the time, and there were the press agencies which supplied general information to the press at home. It was therefore logically correct to suppose that the information was supplied by some other person than the plaintiff in Shanghai. It was logically correct to infer that the information was supplied from other sources, and also logically correct to suppose that the plaintiff himself had furnished it. This information too might have come from a variety of sources. On the 18th January, 1902, the *Shanghai Times* took upon itself to make an absolutely illogical statement, that was to say, it inferred, from these publications, that the information supplied to the *Daily Express* was information supplied by the plaintiff. He thought they would find in that article even something more than that, because it was not merely suggested—he thought he might say stated—in the article that the news published by the *Daily Express* was based on information supplied by the plaintiff, but it was also suggested that facts were misrepresented by him. The prosecution contended that any fair reading of the article would show that such a suggestion was made. That was how the matter stood with regard to the charge that was put forward. The *Shanghai Times*, on the 18th January last, as he had said before, took upon itself to connect the plaintiff entirely with this news published in the *Daily Express*. The plaintiff had to prove the publication of the libel that it was a libel, and that it referred to him. Counsel then went to deal at great length with the petition and answer, paragraph by paragraph, explaining the many points of law bearing upon the subject. In conclusion he said that from the beginning the defendant had made a blunder, a technical blunder which made the article in the *Shanghai Times* a lie from beginning to end. The article stated that certain telegrams appeared in the *Daily Express*, *Daily Mail*, and *Times* on the 6th, or the 7th, July, whereas they were published on the 16th July, as a matter of fact. The whole of the telegrams sent by the plaintiff would be open to the inspection of the jury. The defendant had seen the evidence available to him, as he had limited himself to definite statements. All the telegrams would be produced and put into Court. Mr. McNeill shortly afterwards finished his address, and the Court was adjourned until the next morning.

The verdict, on the 23rd inst., was in favour of the plaintiff, H. D. O'Shea, who was awarded 100 taels and cost.

Señor Aparicio, the Consul for Spain at Shanghai, died at the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the evening of the 15th inst.

We see that Mr. K. W. Mounsey has been playing cricket at Tientsin and made top score (17) for Civilians v. Military on the 7th inst.

CORONATION CELEBRATION FUND.

The Hon. Treasurer begs to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following subscriptions:—

Already Acknowledged \$21,883.39

Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	250
F. Blackhead & Co.	150
Ab'oola Fackee & Arculli	50
H. Bowdler	50
W. Brewer & Co.	50
E. H. Sharp	50
Officers and Men, Royal Garrison Artillery	43
F. A. Gomes	25
A. J. Gomes	25
W. H. Wickham	25
A. Shelton Hooper	25
E. Osborne	25
F. von der Pforden	25
L. Ma lory	25
W. Hutton Potts	25
L. M. Alvares & Co	15
T. H. Reid	10
H. L. Dennys	10
O. M. Arculli	10
A. K. M. Arculli	10
H. F. Carmichael	10
Robert Mitchell	10
J. D. Milton	10
E. A. Ram	10
A. Denison	5
G. C. Wilson	5
G. Piercy, Jr.	5
H. Sykes	2
F. M. Roza Pereira	2
Magistracy:—	
F. A. Hazeland	10
J. H. Kemp	10
C. D. Melbourne	5
J. M. Gutierrez	2
Subscriptions under \$2	8
Hongkong Police Force:—	
Hon. F. J. Badeley	10
A. Mackie	5
P. P. J. Wodehouse	5
Geo. Ng Fuk Shan	2
Acting Chief Inspector Baker	5
Inspector Ford	5
Inspector Gauld	3
Inspector Cuthbert	3
Inspector Warnock	2
Inspector Robertson	2
Inspector Williamson	2
Inspector McLennan	2
Acting Inspector Withers	2
Acting Inspector Dymond	2
Acting Inspector Ritchie	2
P. S. 17 Lamont	2
P. S. 27 O'Sullivan	2
L. S. 18 Perkins	2
L. S. 14 McSwayed	2
L. S. 56 Lee	5
L. S. 73 Dairit	2
L. S. 77 Abley	2
P. C. 70 Davis	2
P. C. 71 Pitt	2
Other European Police	12.50
Indian Police	65.30
Chinese Police	47.9)
Subscriptions under \$2	2
Victoria Gaol:—	
B. H. Craig	10
E. J. Pierpoint	5
A. G. Passmore	3
H. J. Watson	2
T. Harrington	2
Subscriptions under \$2	23.50
Indian Staff	8.55
Man On Insurance Co. Ltd.	50
Chun On Fire Insco. Co. Ltd.	50
Po On Insurance & Godown Co.	50
Hip On Insce., Exchange & Loan Co.	50
I On Insurance Co.	50
Yan On Insurance Co.	50
Tung On Fire Insurance Co.	50
Fook On Insurance and Godown Co.	50
Hang On Insurance Co.	50
Kwong Man Cheung	45
Joo Tek Sing	45
Kwong Tuck Fat	45
Kwong Mow Tai	45
Kung Wo	45
Tai Fung Shun	45
Yu Wo Loong	45
Kwong Wing Shun	45
Chu Wing On	45
Kwan Mow	45

Hsu Kwei Mow Hing	...	...	\$45
Hop Hing Hong	...	...	45
Yee Shun Tai	...	...	45
Ming Yu Tai	...	...	45
Kin Tai Loong	...	...	45
Kwong Man Wo	...	...	45
Han Fung	...	...	45
Wo Kee	...	...	45
Kam Fung Yu	...	...	45
Ming Shun Hong	...	...	45
Wo Sing Hong	...	...	45
Yuen Fat Hong	...	...	45
Sundry Subscriptions	...	...	10
Lai Hing	...	...	22.22
Wing Shing Loong	...	...	22.22
Chuen Shing	...	...	22.22
Wo Cheung	...	...	22.22
Chi Wo	...	...	22.22
Wo Shing	...	...	22.22
Cheong Shing	...	...	22.22
Lai Fung	...	...	22.22
Cheong Hing	...	...	22.22
Wing Kee & Co	...	...	25
Hung Cheong	...	...	10
Po Tai	...	...	10
Robert Jack & Co.	...	...	10
Ship Chandlers' Guild	...	...	70
Dealers in Hemp bags	...	...	72.80

\$25,004 27

We have received a further list of subscribers to the Coronation Celebration Fund, comprising six foolscap pages of Chinese names, firms, and guilds, whose contributions bring the previous total up to \$32,307.77.

WATER RETURN.

LEVEL AND STORAGE OF WATER IN RESERVOIRS ON THE 1ST JUNE.

LEVEL.		1901.	1902.
		Below overflow.	Below overflow.
Tytam	28 ft. 6 in.	14 ft. 6 in.	
		Above overflow	
Pokfulam	4 ft. 8 in.	0 ft. 1 in.	
Wongnaicheong	22 ft. 1 in.	2 ft. 2 in.	

STORAGE GALLONS.

	1901.	1902.
Tytam	186,640,000	272,695,000
Pokfulam	55,860,000	66,000,000
Wongnaicheong	8,473,000	3,505,000
Total	250,973,000	372,200,000

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF MAY.

	1901.	1902.
From usual sources	106,178,000	49,642,000 gallons
Imported by lighter from Tsun Wan	—	6,935,000 "
From Messrs. Butterfield & Swire's Reservoir	—	47,000 "

Total 56,624,000 gallons.

Estimated population	212,000	213,900
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Consumption per head per day	16.1	8.5 gallons
The supply from Messrs. Butterfield & Swire's reservoir was discontinued after the 14th May. The importation of water from Tsun Wan was discontinued after the 17th May. Full supply was resumed on the 25th May.		

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF MAY.

	1901.	1902.
Consumption	11,027,000	12,716,000 gallons
Estimated population	29,300	56,100
Consumption per head per day	12.1	7.3 gallons

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

W. CHATHAM,
Water Authority.

News has been received in Calcutta that Dr. Sven Hedin has safely crossed the Karakoram Pass on his return journey to Europe via Russian Turkestan.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CHAMPIONSHIP FOR 1902.

This annual fixture took place at Happy Valley on Wednesday, 18th June. It is a matter for regret that there should have been only two candidates for the gold medal, whose charms have in previous years always ensured a respectable field. The deficiency in quantity was however atoned for in part by the quality of the play. The form shown throughout the match was of a very high order and had the greens been in better condition, the winner's score would have been brilliant.

The contestants were Mr. T. S. Forrest (the holder of the title for the past two years) and Mr. J. H. T. McMurtrie. The match commenced at noon, Mr. Forrest taking the honour at the first tee. Play was very steady on both sides and the greens were evidently puzzling. At the 10th hole the players were all square. But at this point Mr. McMurtrie proceeded to find his game, pocketing 7 holes out of the remaining 8 in relentless fashion, and completing his second round in 38, a very fine performance with the ground not yet recovered from the recent floods.

The second half of the match commenced at 3 o'clock. Mr. Forrest made a great effort to reduce his opponent's long lead, but without success, and the end of the round found him still 7 down with only 9 to go. Mr. McMurtrie was eventually victorious by 8 up and 7 to play. The "bye" was played out, Mr. McMurtrie finishing 2 up.

The winner played fine golf throughout and fully deserved his popular victory. Mr. Forrest worked hard to retrieve an unfortunate start, and it was generally regretted that he was so much off his game in the morning.

Mr. McMurtrie's score is appended: all putts were holed:—

5, 5, 5, 4, 4, 5, 5, 4, 5=42	80
6, 4, 5, 4, 3, 5, 4, 4, 3=38	
and 5, 4, 4, 4, 4, 6, 5, 4, 4=40	80
5, 4, 4, 5, 4, 5, 4, 4, 5=40	

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

At a parade of the Corps on the 21st inst., when only 69 all told attended, H.E. the Officer Administering the Government presented the South African medal to Colour-Sergeant Moorhouse, an ex-trooper in Lumsden's Horse, and expressed his pleasure and appreciation at being the medium of conferring the decoration. His Excellency afterwards presented the Governor's Shield to the winners, "B" Company, and congratulated them upon their success, which was the more marked from the fact that they were supposed to be a disbanded company.

A meeting of officers and sergeants of the Corps was held after the dismissal of the parade at which the scheme for the reorganisation of the regiment—i.e., its conversion into a Garrison Artillery and Engineer force—was discussed. No decision, however, was arrived at.

The Coronation contingent of Volunteers was expected to disembark at Liverpool on the 21st inst. and to reach London on the 22nd inst.

A cup has been presented for competition at vanishing targets, and will be fired for under the following rules:—Cup to be won each month by the highest score on vanishing head and shoulder targets at 200 yards. Highest number of wins in a year (12 shoots) to get the cup. No entrance fee. No handicaps for first shoot. One point to be deducted afterwards for each previous win. Each hit to count one point. A member shall only be allowed to shoot on the days allotted to his unit and his first shoot in the month to count for the cup. In the event of ties, each man to record a win and lose a point. It is left to units to decide of the range whether this competition shall take place during or after the ordinary monthly shoot. 10 shots to be fired, target visible for 3 seconds. Position prone. Units to use the arms supplied to them. If possible, an officer to be present. An European always to be in the butts, to be responsible for the time and scoring. Shooting for this competition to commence in July.

THE ROAD DISPUTE AT NINGPO.

The Ningpo correspondent of the *N.O. Daily News* writes:—My attention was directed to an article which appeared in the *Echo de Chine* on the 7th inst. "Camp," through the *North-China Daily News*, had asked this writer to locate the 8 mow 1 fun of land. In reply to this request he says—"We ask, however, if it is wise to prove before all China that a European community can have so far forgotten itself as to commit an act of violence against that same community? That, it seems to us, will be the conclusion from the documents we possess." The act of violence referred to I presume to be the lifting of the Catholic boundary-stone, which they had had placed over public property. "The documents we possess." May I ask how the writer came into possession of the documents? From December of last year until some days ago repeated applications had been made to the Catholic Bishop to produce the documents. He had an invitation and one public meeting to show what right he had to the land. He refused to attend the meeting, and said, at last, that the documents were at the French Consulate in Shanghai. Application was made to the French Consul-General; he also refused to produce them. Refusal to show deeds to the only Consul in Ningpo, or to allow the public in meeting to have a look at them is certainly not very respectful to either, but the writer in the *Echo de Chine* got possession of them; how did he get them? The writer wishes us to believe that he is so full of paternal affection for the Ningpo community that he is willing to lie under the imputation of keeping and obliterating a public road, rather than make an exhibition of the community. I rather think there is small appreciation of such gushing sentiment: as a matter of fact the community will take the onus if he will produce the documents. The Bishop had possession of the plans, etc., which the public think give them legal claim to the land which the Catholics have appropriated, and he had them for as long as twenty days. They have nothing to conceal, why should he?

Another Shanghai paper states that the matter has been settled by the British and French Consuls.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IN COREA.

A traveller who recently made a visit to Corea sends the following remarks to the *Kobe Chronicle*, received from a well informed correspondent in Corea, respecting Korean railway projects and the political situation:—

"Apart from the Seoul-Fusan Railway, which is a purely Japanese enterprise, another line is going to be built from Seoul to Wiju on the Yalu River. It is contemplated for the present to construct the line only some thirty miles—to Songdo, the ancient capital of Corea. The line is under the patronage of the Korean Government, and is to be financed by it, but the construction, etc., will be in the hands of French engineers. The Russians would have liked to build a line," adds the correspondent in parenthesis, "but Japanese jealousy interfered with the project. Now the Russians expect to realize their plans in the end through their friends the French, who, while having no primary interest in Corea, play their cards with their partners in the game. Still, these railway lines are in a sense a guarantee for peace, as either party would have to lose a great deal if the other won."

"Masampo," continues the writer, "some thirty miles west of Fusan, is a fine natural harbour which can easily hold a fleet. This was coveted by the Russians as a naval base, being preferable to any port they so far possess in the Far East, and being also close to Japan. They got a large concession from the Korean Government about two years ago, and have since been busy in building wharves, etc. For a time it looked as if Masampo was going to be the exclusive possession of the Russians, but the Japanese have lately also obtained a concession for settlement there. The Russians had to surrender one of the conditions coupled with the concession granted to them—namely, that no other Power was to receive any grant of land either on the mainland or on the island of Koje, opposite Masampo."

AFFAIRS AT DALNY.

A despatch received by the Osaka *Asahi* from its correspondent at Dalny states that the Russian Government undertakings at that port have been making very slow progress of late, owing to the absence in Europe of Dr. Saharoff, Superintending Engineer attached to the staff of the Russian Governor-General of Liaotung Peninsula. Dr. Saharoff is to return very shortly and the works will then be carried on more briskly. There are about 23,000 labourers now engaged in harbour work. The construction of the No. 2 Dry Dock and the long breakwater was at one time reported to have been suspended for reasons of finance, but a recent telegram from St. Petersburg stated that, as a result of Dr. Saharoff's consultation with the home authorities, arrangements have been made for the carrying out of the original specification. This construction work, together with the construction of the remaining portion of the No. 2 pier, is to be completed during the present year, the appropriation for that purpose being six million roubles.

The *Asahi's* correspondent adds that the Chinese Eastern Railway Company's Steamship Department, now established at Port Arthur, will remove to Dalny on the 13th August next.

POLICE DETENTION IN JAPAN.

The *Japan Herald* says:—A chat with Mr. P. B. Clarke, who is at present undergoing five days' detention at the Kagacho Police Station, Yokohama, in connection with the celebrated Maples slander case, convinces us that many worse ways of spending a week or thereabouts might readily be devised than this. The life led by one in Mr. Clarke's position is simple, severely intellectual and strictly hygienic—a most important factor. As a nerve sedative we can strongly recommend it. No tobacco, no intoxicants, a scrupulously clean cell with a high barred window; two *tatami* on which the *futon* is spread at night; a small table and stool for the foreigner's benefit; regular hours, and regular exercise—such are among the most admirable features of the life led by a foreigner undergoing detention in a Japanese police station. The change from the soft and deleterious spring mattress, especially objectionable in the warm weather, to the harder and more bracing *futon*, cannot be other than highly beneficial. Thanks largely to Superintendent Ikariyama, the most thoughtful and courteous of hosts, Mr. Clarke's experience has been ameliorated as much as possible. No lights are allowed in the cells, but this difficulty is overcome by permitting Mr. Clarke to read until 10 p.m. in one of the other rooms of the police station, and visitors may freely see him at 8 p.m. By paying for it, he can have what food he likes brought in from the outside. One rather peculiar regulation is that while books of every description, including novels, are permitted, newspapers and magazines are strictly prohibited. But this is a detail, and assuredly the person undergoing detention can find more mental pabulum in Boswell's *Life of Johnson*, Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, and a volume of Shakespeare, than in the *Strana Magazine* of the local dailies. A month in the police station, under the conditions above described, might be a little too much of a good thing, but for a few days the life has a great deal to recommend it, and we are seriously thinking of committing an offence which may bring us within the scope of the penalty in question.

Up the 10th inst. the Tientsin Provisional Government, which has been making daily reports and posting them for the information of the public, gave 134 cases of cholera, of which 96 had proved fatal. In the Settlements there are now, says the *P. & T. Times* of the 14th inst., from four to six cases daily with a fatality of from two to three. There have also been one or two suspected cases among the coolies working at Mr. von Hanneken's canal. So far, we have heard of no case whatever among the foreign residents. There have been one or two among the troops, but the soldier of any nationality is seldom very careful in the matter of his drinking water.

HONGKONG.

H.E. the Officer Administering the Government has appointed the following gentlemen members of the Governing Body of Queen's College until further notice:—His Honour Chief Justice W. M. Goodman, the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, M.B., and the Rev. G. A. Bunbury.

Fire broke out in a Chinese cracker-shop at 239, Queen's Road West on the 21st inst. at 10.30, and two floors were practically destroyed. The damage is covered by insurance. The fire, the cause of which is unknown, was exciting whilst it lasted, and would have been an effective feature of the Coronation illuminations crackers of every description shooting into the air and rattling like musketry.

The new Attorney-General of Hongkong, Hon. Sir Henry Spencer Berkeley, K.B., arrived in the Colony, on the 24th inst., by the *Yacata Maru*, and assumed his new office next day. He travelled from Fiji to Hongkong via New Zealand. Sir Henry has been Chief Justice of Fiji since 1889, and for the four years preceding he filled the position of Attorney-General there; previous to that he was Solicitor-General of the Leeward Islands from 1878. On Sir H. S. Berkeley's arrival, Mr. Justice Wise, who had been acting as Chief Justice from the time of the departure of Sir John Carrington till the recent promotion of His Honour W. Meigh Goodman to the post, and who since then has acted in the capacity of Attorney-General, will now resume the Puisne Judgeship. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith went on leave on Wednesday, sailing by the *Empress of India*.

On the 20th inst., at 8 a.m., the 5th Infantry Hyderabad Contingent left for India in the transport *Jelunga*, after having been stationed in Kowloon for nearly two years. H.E. Major-General Gascoigne, K.C.B., accompanied by his staff, visited the ship the day before, and after inspecting the regiment, which was drawn up on deck, addressed the officers and men. In the course of his speech His Excellency remarked on the bad luck the regiment had had in not being sent to the front in 1900, but said that it had given him great pleasure to have the regiment under his command, and it was with the greatest satisfaction that he was able to inform officers and men that the China Medal would be granted them, owing to his exertions on their behalf. His Excellency further stated that he greatly regretted the fact that the regiment would not be present to take part in the forthcoming Coronation festivities, to which all ranks had subscribed so liberally; but that he would use his utmost endeavours to obtain the grant of the Coronation Medal for the regiment. He then wished all ranks good luck and *bon voyage*, and left the ship about noon, amid hearty and prolonged cheers from the men.

For many years those interested in the health and welfare of the Chinese portion of the community have thought that something more might be attempted to reduce the very high death-rate among parturient women and children born in the Colony. A scheme therefore to build a hospital specially set apart for maternity cases and affiliated with the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals has been set on foot to which many friends at home and in the Colony have already subscribed. The Maternity Hospital will be erected immediately behind the Nethersole (Women's) Hospital on a site which has been granted for that purpose. Plans have been drawn out and passed by the Public Works Department and the Medical Officer of Health. In these plans provision has been made for the accommodation of patients in two private wards and a larger general ward, and for Chinese nurses who will be instructed in the Western methods of treatment. The sum required for preparing the site, retaining walls, etc., and the building itself is \$12,000, in addition to which \$1,500 is necessary for furnishings, instruments, etc. Dr. MacLean Gibson, Alice Memorial Hospital, will be glad to receive and acknowledge in the public press any further subscriptions for this object, and would respectfully request that those who have promised help would send their subscriptions at the earliest opportunity, so that building operations may be begun without delay.

Contributed.

Mr. W. A. Crake has been appointed Supernumerary Lieutenant in the Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

The following appointment has been at made the Admiralty:—Engineer G. R. Byles, to the *Tamar*, for Hongkong, to date May 24.

Mr. C. M. I. Meser has been appointed a Director of the Widows' and Orphans Pension Fund vice the Hon. A. W. Brawn, absent on leave.

We regret to state that His Honour W. Meigh Goodman, the Chief Justice, has been indisposed for the past day or two. He was unable to attend the Cathedral service on Thursday, but has now recovered.

The Colonial Secretary informed us on the 21st inst. that the following telegram has been received by the Colonial Secretary from H. M. Consul-General, Bangkok, dated 20th June, "Vessels from Hongkong or China ports must call at Kohphai for pratique."

We very much regret to have to record the death of Mr. H. Matheson Brown, manager at Swatow for Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, who only left Hongkong a short time ago to take up the post at Swatow. The deceased succumbed to an attack of cholera on the 24th inst. The sincerest sympathy is tendered to Mrs. Brown, who was absent on a holiday in Japan and only returned to Hongkong on Friday.

A Chinese stonecutter employed in the shipyard at Quarry Bay is lying in the Tung Wa Hospital dangerously injured through the explosion of a dynamite charge on the 22nd inst. It was his duty to cut the holes in the rock for the reception of the charges, and he was deepening one in which, unknown to him, an unexploded charge was lying, when it went off with the result stated. The unfortunate man, the lower part of whose face, in addition to other injuries, was blown away, is not expected to live.

Passengers in Queen's Road Central on the 20th inst. stopped to stare at a police inspector who, assisted by an Indian constable was energetically clearing the street in the vicinity of Thomas's Hotel. Enquiry elicited that a report had reached the Central Police Station that the building situated at the corner of Duddell Street, opposite to Thomas's Hotel, was likely to collapse. Information was sent to the P. W. D., but the officials there seemed to think that the building was as safe as the average erection in Hongkong, for some hours later the police inspector and his Indian assistant had vanished and traffic resumed its wonted aspect.

Thomas Henry Knowles and Hugh Hunter, second and third engineers respectively of the steamer *Nam Shan*, were arrested by the police on suspicion of causing the death of a Chinese fireman on board the ship on the 19th inst. Other Chinese firemen alleged that the accused men struck and kicked the deceased because he did not do his work properly. The deceased, who was alive but unconscious when picked up, was carried by his comrades to the Tung Wa Hospital, where he died shortly after being admitted. The men were liberated at noon on the 20th inst. in consequence of a report by Dr. Hunter, who found on examination that the cause of death was pneumonia.

The police reported on 27th inst. that at seven o'clock on the morning of Wednesday, the 25th inst., a daring robbery, with violence, was committed in the shop of a Chinese contractor at 9, Hollywood Road. The victim, an old man, was sitting at the door when three countrymen approached and suddenly seized hold of him. They carried him inside and down to the basement of the premises where, to stifle his cries, they attempted to gag him with his own queue. It broke in the operation, however, and the robbers then stuffed some paper and a piece of wood into the old man's mouth. One was left to guard him, and the other two proceeded upstairs and ransacked the place. Two wooden boxes were broken open and money and jewelry to the amount of over \$3,000 stolen. When the robbers had gone the old man regained his liberty and reported the matter at the Central Police Station, with the result that later one of the men was arrested, and about \$500 of the stolen money found in his possession. His two accomplices were still at liberty yesterday, and are believed to have succeeded in getting away from the Colony.

Mr. J. Lambert has been appointed Surveyor of Boilers.

The appointment of Mr. C. McI. Messer as Acting Registrar-General is notified in the *Gazette*.

Subadar Ikbal Singh, H.K.S.B.R.A., has been re-appointed Honorary A.D.C. to H.E. the Officer Administering the Colony.

The special Corporation services in the Union Church on the 22nd inst. were well attended, and at both the National Anthem was sung.

On the arrival of the *Shinano Maru* in the harbour on the 20th inst., the police went aboard and took over from the custody of the master fourteen Japanese girl stowaways. They are to be sent back by the Japanese Consul.

Messrs. Butterfield & Swire informed us on the 1st inst. that they had just received a telegram to the effect that the undamaged cargo per *Ajda* will be transhipped to the *Pingsuey*, which is expected to arrive at this port on the 22nd prox.

The concert given in the Peak Hotel on the 20th inst. by the French Comic Opera Co. was moderately successful. Mlle. Lescant and M. C. Dason were the only two who sang, the others of the company being indisposed. About fifty people were present.

The German gunboat *Luchs* left for Canton on the 24th inst.

The Japanese cruiser *Chihaya* arrived on the 23rd inst. from Amoy.

The transport *Nurani*, bringing the 10th Jats to Shanghai to relieve the 30th Baluchis, arrived there on the 20th inst. The relieving regiment landed at once and marched to Jessfield, where they will be quartered. The 30th Baluchis left by the *Nurani* on the 22nd inst. and reached Hongkong on the 27th inst.

MISCELLANEOUS.

F. S. Mayer has been sentenced by the Saibansho to one year and six Yokohama months' major confinement for forgery.

The new German military barracks at Kanmi, Shantung, are now finished, and the troops moved into their new quarters on the 30th ult.

A would-be golfer recently sent an order to his bookseller for all the works on the Royal and Ancient game which he could find. In the course of a few days the consignment arrived, and among them was one called "Stockton on Tees." It reminds one of the story of the sporting journalist. In a parcel of books sent him for review he discovered one on "Marco Polo."

The Macao Steamboat Company have petitioned the Macao Government to dredge the harbour and the approach thereto, and as a result the local authorities of the Portuguese Colony have set aside a small sum for the purpose. Everyone who has been to Macao will agree that the dredging of the river and harbour is a necessity, for a steamer going there has practically to plough a channel through the mud.

The *Siam Observer* of the 10th inst. says:—We deeply regret to hear that Mr. Tower's illness is somewhat serious and that it is feared it may prove to be typhoid. All sections of the community in Bangkok will join in the hope that His Excellency may make a speedy recovery. Mr. Tower, we believe, has experienced but indifferent health since coming to Bangkok, and he will probably need holiday after this unfortunate illness.

At a meeting at Tokyo on the 10th inst. of the *Tsuo-Kio Kai* (Oriental Association), Count Okuma, ex-Premier, remarked that the outward enthusiasm of the nation over the Anglo-Japanese Alliance seemed to have waned, but it still remained true that the value of the Alliance would be appreciated in the future. The Alliance looked to the future more than to the present. He referred to the conflict between the civilisation of Asia and that of Europe, in which connection he said it was a fortunate thing that the Japanese had succeeded in harmonising them. He considered that Japan should render assistance to less fortunate countries which were threatened with ruin through this inevitable conflict between the old and new influences. If they did so the Japanese themselves would benefit as well as the Chinese and Koreans.

We learn that the French flagship *D'Entrecasteaux* arrived and anchored off Macao on the 25th inst. and two small gun-vessels (probably the *Argus* and *Vigilante*) on the same day anchored in the inner harbour.

Capt. de Richelieu sent in his resignation from the Siamese Navy a fortnight ago, and will leave in September. It is stated that later he was offered the post of Harbour Master at Bangkok, but declined. He has had a long period of service in the Siamese Navy.

A Paris telegram to the *Echo de Chine* says:—"M. Doumergue, in receiving the personnel of the Ministry of the Colonies, declared that the colonial domain of France was actually sufficiently extended. It was a question of organising it administratively and economically and to occupy themselves with its defence." We wonder what sort of statement M. Doumergue would have made, had he as some supposed been appointed Colonial Minister.

A rumour has been current in Peking and Tientsin official circles that far-reaching changes are impending in the higher administration of the Two Kwang and Chihli Provinces. It was said that Yuan Shikai is too zealous in his reform programme for the Palace clique and that he will immediately be sent to the South; while Wang Wen-shao will resume his former position as Viceroy of the metropolitan Province, as his age and disposition render him far more amenable to Palace influence. However, the *P. & T. Times* has received a contradiction of the story.

Nearly half the railway works in Formosa between Keelung and Takao have now been finished. Traffic has been opened as far north as Kagi on the southern line, and through business is now carried on between Keelung and Shenchiku on the northern lines. There remains the more difficult half of the work to accomplish—the difficulty lying chiefly in the number of bridges and tunnels to be constructed. In the course of this year the Formosan Railway will extend to 73 miles 66 chains for the northern line, and 67 miles 13 chains for the southern line, making a total of 147 miles 79 chains. The 1902 appropriation for the work is two and half million yen, to which is to be added 50,000 yen the sum carried forward from last year's appropriation.

Under the heading "Prince Yukanthor," *L'Opinion* of Saigon has the following:—We are informed, and we give the news with all reserve, that Prince Yukanthor, who on his return from France stopped at Singapore, where he lived in private—poorly enough—on a subsidy from the Court of Cambodia, has left the English town to return to Bangkok in Siam. Bangkok is situated between Chantabun and Paknam, and is in the very centre therefore of the country where all the trouble has occurred which is really upsetting Siam. Prince Yukanthor in view of his hatred to France might well be one of the promoters of the movement. The Government should get information on this subject. As far as we are concerned, we only call attention to a fact which one of our correspondents assures us is correct.

At Singapore on the 13th inst. David Solomon, a Jew, charged a Javanese servant with leaving his service without giving due notice. In the course of the hearing the magistrate elicited that the boy was in receipt of a salary of \$10 a month, but that \$5 and \$3 were due to him. The Vice-Consul at Singapore for the Netherlands gave a history of the boy's case as he understood it. In the course of this, he remarked that it was not uncommon for people from Singapore to go to Java, engage servants, bring them to Singapore, and reduce them to something like slavery until the expenses incidental on the arrangement were worked off. The boy had been brought here by Solomon and for five months had received no pay. The boy's father had written to the Vice-Consul soliciting him to have the lad sent back to his home. These were used to no purpose, and the consul advised the boy to give notice of leaving. The boy stated that he did so. Solomon denied it, and brought a claim of \$30 against him. He also had the boy's passport. The conclusion of the case was that Solomon should pay the boy \$8 and restore his passport, while the claim of \$30 should be taken to the Court of Requests.

According to the *Asahi*, the number of Japanese emigrating to China and Corea has remarkably increased of late. The average number of Japanese landing at Fusan by each steamer is over three times that of last year. During April the Japanese population at Chemulpo increased by about 139, and that at Seoul by about 300. Every steamer going to China carries Japanese passenger of all classes to its fullest capacity.

Further details of the loss of the *Teutonia* off Cape Rachado are contained in the *Peking Gazette*, which states that just after collision with the Chinese junk, the most seriously damaged of the two boats appeared to be the junk, and Capt. Neilsen ordered the boats out to save the occupants of the junk, which was split right in two pieces, and sank immediately. The *Teutonia's* injury consisted in a big gap in the fore part, but the extent to which the water was rising was not apparently discovered, in the excitement of the moment, and the endeavours to save those in the junk, until she suddenly gave signs of foundering which occurred in something like ten minutes.

According to a Tokyo despatch, Mr. Hayashi, the Japanese Minister to Corea, deploring the fact that the Korean policy of the Japanese Government is constantly changing, suggests that the policy should be defined and fixed, and that the friendly relations between Corea and Japan should be promoted as much as possible. Nothing should be left undone to maintain peace in Corea, and Mr. Hayashi recommends the following measures with that object, which are said to have the approval of the British Minister at Seoul:—1. That the Korean Government should have the counsel of the Japanese and British Governments, which cordially and truly desire the maintenance of the independence of Corea, and that they should decide all important questions concerning the home and foreign affairs of Corea, avoiding all complications. 2. That when the Korean Government deems it necessary to raise a foreign loan, it should be floated in Great Britain, Japan, or the United States. 3. That the engagement of foreign advisers should be avoided as far as practicable, and that the unity of the Imperial Court and Government should be promoted. How Mr. Hayashi's views come to be published is not stated.

Mr. Nelson Annandale, who has been travelling in various parts of the Malay Peninsula with the aid of the Royal Society of London and the University of Edinburgh in order to investigate the different races of men who inhabit these parts, writes to the *Malay Mail* with regard to the Patani affair, correcting the statements of the Singapore papers. He says that rumours of risings and massacres in Siamese Malaya had been rife, the Siamese Vice-Minister of the Interior came down from Bangkok to settle affairs. "The Malay Rajah of Patani was apparently reconciled to the Siam authorities, and an exchange of courtesies took place. Just then, as soon as the monsoon permitted the voyage, the Vice-Minister returned, bringing documents with him in which certain concessions were made to the Rajah's view of his own position. The Rajah refused to sign them. He was arrested and exiled, and according to Siamese accounts, he afterwards confessed that he had done wrong. No public disturbance whatsoever accompanied his removal. I have talked with several of his well-wishers in Patani, and not one of them so much as hinted that there was any disposition on the part of the populace to take his part. Indeed many of the people appear to be ignorant, at any rate in the remoter parts of the state—if five or ten miles away can be called remote—and the majority utterly indifferent with regard to his removal." In conclusion Mr. Annandale asks:—"Who and what is the Patani Malay? I can but answer—he is a half-bred Siamese with a strong strain of Semang blood in his veins. Quite a large proportion, probably at least a third, of the peasants of the Siamese Malay States are Siamese, and many of the rest, while calling themselves Malay, can speak no language but Siamese. They do not eat pig and they practise circumcision. Racially they are as much Siamese as Malays; their prejudice was not against Siamese as such, but against corrupt minor officials who have now been dismissed."

The Grand Duke Cyril of Russia, brother of the Grand Duke Boris, who is now in China, is expected to visit Japan shortly. One of the Imperial Princes will superintend the preparations for the reception of the Russian prince.

The loss of the Siamese Navy transport *Chamroen* proves to be even a more serious matter than has been generally supposed, says the *Bangkok Times*. It was known that the officers and crew on board numbered 43 but we are informed that 39 other persons were being brought to Bangkok from Singora. There seems to be little doubt now that the whole 112 persons have perished.

According to a St. Petersburg telegram passenger and goods traffic from Russia on the Manchurian Railway will be opened as far as Port Arthur in the coming autumn. M. Pavlovski, an eminent engineer, is in St. Petersburg to advise as to the cost of completing the line, which is expected to reach the total of seven millions sterling. The whole line will be finished by 1905 (the same telegram says) and thenceforward daily express trains will run from Moscow to Irkutsk, reducing the journey from eight days to five. The line round Lake Baikal will be ready at the same time, and the journey from London to Port Arthur will then be done in eleven days.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 27th June.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 27th June.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.25 to \$8.30 pcl.
do. " 2, White.....	6.95 to 7.00 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ...	5.95 to 6.00 "
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.80 to 5.85 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.10 to 8.15 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	6.85 to 6.90 "
do. " 1, Brown ...	5.75 to 5.80 "
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.65 to 5.70 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	12.05 to 12.10 "
Shekloong "	9.70 to 9.75 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 27th June.—The prices are the same as when last reported. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$3.20 to 3.25
" Round, Good quality	4.05 to 4.10
" Long	4.15 to 4.20
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	3.40 to 3.45
" Garden, " No. 1	3.80 to 3.85
" White.....	4.30 to 4.35
" Fine Cargo	4.40 to 4.45

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Macduff*, sailed on the 8th June. For New York:—1250 pkgs. fire crackers, 158 bales rattan cane, 3 bales canes, 27 cases blacks woodware, 50 cases human hair, 1725 pkgs. merchandise.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 7th June.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*: 50 bales No. 6 at \$22, 1,150 bales No. 10 at \$93 to \$99.50, 800 bales No. 12 at \$96 to \$100.50, 200 bales No. 16 at \$113 to \$115, 900 bales No. 20 at \$117 to \$124. *Gray Shirtings*: 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Red Soldier and Gun at \$3.10, 1,200 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue and Gun at \$3.30, 100 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 Men at \$4.90, 2,000 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Dragon at \$4.80, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 Men at \$4.90. *White Shirtings*: 500 pieces 16 at \$5.50, 10,000 pieces 0 at \$5.40, T-Cloth: 600 pieces 8 lbs. VV at \$3.60, 1,500 pieces 7 lbs. Gold Dragon at \$3.17. *Drill*: 3,000 pieces 18 lbs. Stag at \$6.55. *Metals*.—*Nail Rod Iron*: 2,000 bundles 1/8 at \$4.57½ to arrive. *Round, Square, and Flat Iron*: 1,683 piculs at \$1.52½ to arrive. *Iron Sheet*: 360 piculs at \$6.30 to arrive.

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20.....	\$84.00 to \$127.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.20 to 2.25
7 lbs.	2.30 to 2.50
8.4 lbs.	3.10 to 3.75
9 to 10 lbs.	3.80 to 5.00
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.55 to 2.90
58 to 60 "	3.20 to 3.40
64 to 66 "	4.50 to 5.30
Fine	5.35 to 7.80
Book-folds	4.50 to 7.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.75 to 1.40
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.85 to 2.10
7 lbs. (32 ")	2.15 to 2.45
6 lbs. (32 ") Mexs.	2.20 to 2.35
7 lbs. (32 ")	2.95 to 3.50
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.15 to 3.75
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14 lbs.	4.20 to 5.90

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 5 lbs.	1.65 to 5.50
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BROCADES—Dyed

DAMASKS—

	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted	0.18 to 0.20
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.28 to 0.75
Velveteens—18 in.	0.23 to 0.30
	per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.30 to 3.00

WOOLLENS—

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.65 to 2.00
German	1.25 to 3.00
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.00
	per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.50 to 8.50
Assorted	6.60 to 8.65
Camlets—Assorted	12.00 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches }	12.00 to 16.00
Assorted	
Orleans—Plain	8.00 to 9.50
	per pair
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	4.00 to 9.00

METALS—

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	4.6 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.	4.55 to —
Swedish Bar	4.65 to —
Small Round Rod	5.05 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.,	6.00 to —
Wire, 16/25	9.00 to —
Old Wire Rope	2.80 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	8.30 to —
Australian	8.30 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	42.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	42.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	42.00 to —
Composition Nails.....	61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	39.00 to —
Tin.....	84.50 to —
	box per
Tin-Plates	8.80 to —
	per cwt. case
Steel ½ to 1	7.00 to —

SUNDRIES—

	per picul
Quicksilver	181.00 to —
	per box.
Window Glass	6.50 to —
	per 10-gal. case
Kerosene Oil.....	2.10 to —

SHANGHAI, 14th June (from Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—Apart from the fact that there has been rather more general enquiry at very low rates, which importers refuse to entertain, the market continues in the same morbid state, and with the exception of some transactions in American Goods there is practically no business to report from first hands. There is little doubt that some orders have been received from both the Tientsin and Newchwang markets, but from the fact that there is great difficulty in placing them, the Native dealers are content in filling them from their own stock. It is now rumored that the Tientsin Provincial Government will shortly hand over their control of the city to the Chinese authorities. This will, no doubt, restore confidence among the Chinese mercantile classes, but it is rather unfortunate that the Foreign Powers should have to do so seeing what they have had to do during the past two years. From Szechuen and the River Ports there is no news of any moment, but the Korean market appears to have improved somewhat as several lines have been bought on the basis of Manchester prices for arrival, and clearances have been made on a more liberal scale than for some time past.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

SATURDAY, 28th June.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/8½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.15½
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.19½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.75½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	41½
Credits, 60 days' sight	42½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	128½
Bank, on demand	129
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	129½
Bank, on demand	129
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74
Private, 30 days' sight.....	74½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	19½ p.c.m.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2 p.c. pm
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	1/4
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1½ p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	60½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	11.54
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	80
BAR SILVER per oz.....	24½

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 27th June.—The holidays arranged for the celebration of the Coronation of His Majesty King Edward—unhappily postponed—have seriously interfered with business during the past week, and there are few but transactions to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been in strong demand, and the rate has risen from \$592½ to \$600 with small sales at intermediate rates. The London rate has advanced to £63.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions are slightly easier at \$384 with sales. China Traders have again sold at \$56. Cantons are offering at \$165.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong have sold and can be procured at \$330. Chinas have improved to \$81 with buyers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue to attract the attention of investors, and shares can now be placed at \$38½. Indochinas are lower again with sellers at \$106. China Manillas are wanted at \$35. Douglases can be obtained at \$44. Star Ferris and Shell Transports are unchanged.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are weak at \$109 sellers. Luzons continue on offer at \$25.

MINING.—Punjoms have sold at \$43. Charbonnages are quiet with sales at \$550. Raubs are wanted at \$9.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have remained steady, and are obtainable at \$225. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have receded to \$88. New Amoy Docks have improved to \$37 with buyers.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been booked at \$177½. Hongkong Hotels are quiet at \$135. Oriente Hotels are weak with sellers at \$45. Humphreys Estates can be procured at \$11½.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkong Cottons continue in request at \$17.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Manila Investments have declined to \$22½ sellers. Green Island Cements

have sold and are wanted at \$21½. Electrics (old) have sold at \$14, and the new issue at \$6½. Ropes can be placed at \$140, and Ices at \$242½. Tramways have been done at the improved rate of \$840, and are in further request. Steam Water-Boats are wanted at \$9½ and Watkins at \$6½. China Providents can be placed at \$9.85.

MEMO.—Hongkong Electric Company, Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 8th July. Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	(\$600, buyers L'don, £63.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$27, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$27, buyers
Foun. Shares...	£1	\$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	£1	\$1.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$21, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$15	\$25, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$15, sellers
China Prov. L. & M....	\$10	\$9.85, sales & buy.
China Sugar	\$100	\$109, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited....	\$500	\$500, nominal.
Philippine Tobacco Invest. Co., Ltd.)	\$50	\$45.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 42, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 35.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 47½, sellers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150.
Hongkong	\$100	\$17, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	\$25	\$46, buyers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$21½, sales & buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40.
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$5	\$14, sales
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$81, buyers
Hk. Steam Water	\$5	\$94, buyers
Boat Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$135.
Hongkong Hotel	\$25	\$24½, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$50	\$86, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G....	\$50	\$14½, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$225, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$185, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$20	\$81, buyers
China Fire	\$25	\$56, sales
China Traders'	\$50	\$330, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$25	Tls. 185, buyers
North China	\$20	nominal.
Straits	\$50	\$384, sales
Union	\$60	\$130.
Yangtze		
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$177½, sales
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$55, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$25, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$22½, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$550, sales
Jelebu	\$5	50, cents buyers
Queen's Mines, Ltd....	25c.	nominal.
Oliviers Mines, A....	\$5	nominal.
Do. B....	\$4½	nominal.
Punjom	\$10	\$4½, sales
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1½, sellers
Raubs	18	\$9, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$37, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$45, sellers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$8½.
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$55.
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$35, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$44, sellers
H., Canton and M....	\$15	\$38½, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$106, sellers
Shel. Transportand Trading Co....	\$1	\$2, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	(\$20½, sellers
Do.	\$5	(\$11½, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co....	\$5	\$1.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9.
Do.	\$10	\$175, buyers
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$21, sellers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$6½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S....	\$10	\$14½.

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Shanghai, 25th June (from Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). We have had a rather dragging market, overshadowed by the settlements on the 30th current. We note a further decline in Indo-China S. N. shares, and Dock shares have also weakened. BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Local sales were made at \$507½ and \$600. MARINE INSURANCE.—No local transactions have taken place. FIRE INSURANCE.—No local business is reported. SUGARS.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares changed hands at \$77. MINING.—Raub Australian Gold Mining shares were placed at \$9. Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. shares changed hands at Tls. 10.00/9.30 cash, closing at 9.50, 9.60 for June, 10.00/9.75 for July, 9.60 for August, 10.00 for September and 9.50/9.60 for October. DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Business was done in S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co. shares at Tls. 262½ cash, 265/267½ for June, 265/267½ for August and 267½ for September. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf shares were sold at Tls. 300. LANDS.—Shanghai Land Investment Co. At the extraordinary general meeting of shareholders held on the 23rd instant, the proposal to increase the capital by the issue of 13,000 new shares was passed unanimously. It would appear that the issue price will be Tls. 80, which would bring in a sum of Tls. 390,000 to increase the reserve fund. Shares have changed hands at Tls. 122½. INDUSTRIAL.—International Cotton Manufacturing Co. The resolution to write down the capital Tls. 25 per share was passed at the meeting held on the 19th instant. Laou-Kung-Mow Cotton Mill shares were sold at Tls. 47½/45. MISCELLANEOUS.—Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares changed hands at Tls. 290/280 cash, 285/2-0 for June and 300 for September. Hall & Holtz shares were placed at \$40, Shanghai Mutual Telephone shares (New Issue) at Tls. 55 and Hotels des Colonies shares at Tls. 20. Shanghai Mercury, Limited. The Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts for year ending April 30th have been presented and passed at the meeting of shareholders held on the 24th inst. The working account shows a credit balance of Tls. 9,521.24, from which has to be deducted directors' fees Tls. 1,000, making the net profit Tls. 8,521.24, equal to 12.17 per cent. on the capital, against 12.42 in the previous year. After bringing forward from previous year Tls. 797.70, writing off preliminary expenses Tls. 300, removing expenses Tls. 200, legal expenses Tls. 450.39, provision for bad debts Tls. 350, depreciation of plant and furniture Tls. 916.55, and deducting Tls. 3,500 interim dividend paid in November, at 5 per cent., there is available for distribution Tls. 3,602, from which a 5 per cent. dividend will be paid (making 10 per cent. for the year), and the balance, Tls. 102, carried forward to new account. Loans.—Shanghai Land Investment Company's 5 per cent. debentures were sold at Tls. 93 and 95.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—*Kanagawa Maru* (str.).
FOR LONDON.—*Chusan* (str.), *Stentor* (str.), *Alcinous* (str.), *Kanagawa Maru* (str.), *Formosa* (str.), *Sarpent* (str.), *Ulysses* (str.).
FOR LIVERPOOL.—*Yangtze* (str.), *Idomeneus* (str.).
FOR MARSEILLES.—*Sydney* (str.), *Malaya* (str.), *Kanagawa Maru* (str.), *Strassburg* (str.).
FOR BREMEN.—*Hamburg* (str.).
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Samia* (str.), *Strassburg* (str.), *Silesia* (str.), *C. Ferd. Laeisz* (str.), *Wurzburg* (str.), *Malaya* (str.).
FOR TRIESTE.—*Maria Valerie* (str.).
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—*Kinshiu Maru* (str.), *Olympia* (str.).
FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India* (str.), *Tartar* (str.).
FOR NEW YORK.—*Spithead* (str.), *Satsuma* (str.), *Merionethshire* (str.), *Verona* (str.).
FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—*Kumano Maru* (str.), *Eastern* (str.), *Chingtu* (str.).
FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—*Kagoshima Maru* (str.).
FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, AND BOMBAY.—*Nankin* (str.).
FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, AND CALCUTTA.—*Suisang* (str.).

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

May—
20, Tingsang, British str., from Hongay.
21, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
21, Maidsuru Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
21, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.

21, Pentakota, British trapt., from Calcutta.
21, Perla, British str., from Manila.
21, Pronto, German str., from Haiphong.
21, Shikano Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
21, Taiwan, British str., from Chefoo.
21, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
22, Asama, British str., from New York.
22, Chiyu n, Chinese str., from Canton.
22, Eastern, British str., from Kobe.
22, Kinshiu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
22, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
22, Laisang, British str., from Calcutta.
22, Skarpsno, Norwegian str., from Moji.
22, Yangtze, British str., from Shanghai.
23, Argo, Norwegian str., from Tsuron.
23, Chihaya, Japanese cruiser, from Amoy.
23, Frigga, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
23, Hong Bee, British str., from Straits.
23, Kaifong, British str., from Cebu.
23, Loksang, British str., from Chinkiang.
23, Lyderhorn, British barque, from Cardiff.
23, Nankin, British str., from Moji.
23, Southlands, British str., from Cardiff.
23, Thea, German str., from Haiphong.
23, Taintan, German str., from Bangkok.
23, Wongkoi, German str., from Bangkok.
23, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.
24, Ailsa Craig, British str., from Moji.
24, Gloucester City, British str., from Saigon.
24, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
24, Heathford, British str., from Wellington.
24, Malaya, Russian str., from Shanghai.
24, Merionethshire, Brit. str., from Kelung.
24, Onsang, British str., from Saigon.
24, Paoting, British str., from Swatow.
24, I ubi, British str., from Manila.
24, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
24, Triumph, German str., from Canton.
24, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
24, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Australia.
25, Coptic, British str., from San Francisco.
25, Evie J. Ray, British barque, from Rajang.
25, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
25, Glenogle, British str., from Shanghai.
25, Kingsing, British str., from Canton.
25, Mongkut, German str., from Bangkok.
25, Namsang, British str., from Hongay.
25, Sachsen, German str., from Bremen.
25, Themis, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
25, Yungching, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
25, Zaire, Portuguese gunboat, from Macao.
25, Victoria, Swedish str., from Saigon.
26, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
26, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
26, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
26, Loksang, British str., from Canton.
26, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
26, Pelayo, British str., from Shanghai.
26, Pbra Chom Klao, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
26, Woosung, British str., from Canton.
27, Bombay, British str., from London.
27, Formosa, British str., from Yokohama.
27, Hamburg, German str., from Shanghai.
27, Ha s Menzell, German str., from Saigon.
27, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
27, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
27, Nurani, British transport, from Shanghai.
27, Oceana, German str., from Yap.
27, Progress, German str., from Tourane.
27, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
27, Sleipner, Norwegian str., from Iloilo.
27, Taksang, British str., from Chinkiang.
27, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
27, Yedo Maru, Japanese str., from Chefoo.
27, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
28, Chingtu, British str., from Kobe.
28, Elita Nossack, German str., from Saigon.
28, Hongkong, French str., from Hoihow.
28, Hne, French str., from Haiphong.
28, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
28, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.
28, Feiching, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
28, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., from K'otzu.
29, Anping Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.
29, Hailong, British str., from Tamsui.
29, Sydney, French str., from Shanghai.

MAY—DEPARTURES.

21, Ambria, German str., for Taintan.
21, Benledi, British str., for Kobe.
21, Chusan, British str., for Europe.
21, Germania, German str., for Hoihow.
21, Inveric, British str., for Manila.
21, Jelunga, British transport, for Calcutta.
21, Loyal, German str., for Bangkok.
21, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
21, Mara Kolb, German str., for Shiwiagan.
21, Oslo, Norwegian str., for Cebu.

21. Taiwan, British str., for Canton.
 21. Tartar, British str., for Amoy.
 22. Chunsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 22. Daijia Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 22. Eric, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 22. Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
 22. Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 22. Hipsang, British str., for Bangkok.
 22. M. Bickm. rs. German str., for Penang.
 22. Maria, Austrian str., for Port Darwin.
 22. Michael Jeeben, German str., for Hoihow.
 22. Pentakota, British trspt., for Weihaiwei.
 22. Pitsanulok, German str., for Bangkok.
 22. Skuld, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 23. Airlie, British str., for Kob.
 23. Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 23. Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 23. Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 24. Asama, British str., for Shanghai.
 24. Chiynen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 24. Deuteros, German str., for Swatow.
 24. Loksang, British str., for Canton.
 24. Lucia, German gunboat, for Canton.
 24. Lucia, British barque, for Quinhon.
 24. Mathi de, German str., for Taintan.
 24. Pera, American str., for San Francisco.
 24. Quarta, German str., for Bangkok.
 24. Thisile, British barque, for Vancouver.
 25. Decima, German str., for Tournon.
 25. Empress of India, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 25. Maidsuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 25. Malaya, Russian str., for Singapore.
 25. Maria, Austrian str., for Port Darwin.
 25. Mausang, British str., for Sandakan.
 25. Merionethshire, Brit. str., for New York.
 25. Perla, British str., for Manila.
 25. Pronto, German str., for Hoihow.
 25. Savota, German str., for Nagasaki.
 25. Suisang, British str., for Calcutta.
 25. Taichow, German str., for Bangkok.
 25. Tingxang, British str., for Hongay.
 25. Triumph, German str., for Haiphong.
 25. Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 25. Yangtze, British str., for Singapore.
 25. Yohow, British str., for Swatow.
 26. Ailsa Craig, British str., for Moji.
 26. Alcides, Brit. h. barque, for Baltimore.
 26. Eastern, British str., for Australia.
 26. Erigga, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 26. Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 26. Kowloon, German str., for Shanghai.
 26. Nankin, British str., for Singapore.
 26. Nanshan, British str., for Swatow.
 26. Oslo, Norwegian str., for Cebu.
 26. Perla, British str., for Manila.
 26. Robt. Dickenson, Brit. str., for Nagasaki.
 26. Thea, German str., for Haiphong.
 27. Hamburg, German str., for Europe.
 27. Hongsang, British str., for Canton.
 27. Kingsing, British str., for Swatow.
 27. Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
 27. Paoting, British str., for Manila.
 27. Sachsen, German str., for Shanghai.
 27. Takang, British str., for Canton.
 27. Yawata Maru, Japanese str., for Nagasaki.
 28. Argö, Norwegian str., for Tournon.
 28. Bombay, British str., for Shanghai.
 28. Claverdale, British str., for Cebu.
 28. Frithjof, Norw. str., for Haiphong.
 28. Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
 28. Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., for London.
 28. Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 28. Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 28. Skarpsno, Norw. str., for Moji.
 28. Taiwan, British str., for Swatow.
 28. Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.
 29. Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
 29. Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 29. Thales, British str., for Swatow.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Chusan*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. S. Villmoi; for Brindisi or Marseilles, Mr. S. P. Borne.
 Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Mrs. Ford, Rev. Goodman Johnson, Messrs. Thompson, Malcompo and Remedios.
 Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Mrs. Sanssom, Messrs. E. Fenwick, C. P. Boland, Frank Smith, T. E. Hardy, Victor Legaspi, J. Werichet and C. Castro.
 Per *Pentakota*, from Calcutta, &c., Lieut. Col. W. C. Faithfull (Commanding Troops), Majora Carpendale and A. Shaw, Captains Andrew and Kaye, Lieuts. Ridgeway, Woreton,

J. Cook, Wardell, J. Fleming, I.M.S., and P. McCleverty, and 812 troops.

Per *Perla*, from Manila, Mrs. Golles, Mrs. H. C. Branscomer, Miss F. E. Bent, Dr. A. Raylagy, Messrs. P. P. Farnham and F. Ariyabat.

Per *Thales*, from Swatow, Miss Bothwell.

Per *Kaifong*, from Iloilo, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Clelland and five children.

Per *Eastern*, from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Rae, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Carter, Mrs. Jas. Reed, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. De Ath, Mr. R. H. Ducker and Misses Ducker (2), Messrs. J. W. and W. R. Groves, McCauley, Ramsden and J. H. Moorehead.

Per *Laisang*, from Singapore, Rev. and Mrs. S. H. D. Boggs and child, Misses G. Whaett and J. Wilson and Rev. Wroten.

Per *Malaya*, from Shanghai, Mrs. Timm and two children.

Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Mrs. Woodley and Master Woodley, Mrs. Shaperd, Mr. and Mrs. Holland, Miss Warren, Messrs. Bain and Pearne.

Per *Rubi*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. L. Ross and son, Misses Godly and M. F. Durphy, Major H. F. Allen, Messrs. Lamm, P. Balma, L. Goble, T. M. Beattie, W. D. Graham, P. Luke, H. G. Van Waikie, F. Hermandog, E. Muro, F. Candstana, E. Delfin, M. Manaligar and G. Kingam-r.

Per *Thales*, from Swatow, Mr. and Mrs. Steward-Smith.

Per *Yawata Maru*, from Australia, &c., for Hongkong, Mrs. and Miss Deacon, Mrs. I. Ventura, Mrs. Ventura and Master Mariano Ventura, Mrs. M. Ventura, Sir Henry Berkeley, Misses Consuelo, Natividad and Pelifelix, Mr. and Miss Adcock, Messrs. C. H. C. Berkerton, Hayter, Schlanders, W. H. McHugh, H. Phillips, G. C. Wentworth, Paul Hoefel, Barry Baldwin, Yallgee, C. Palomar, A. G. Graeben and Y. L. Bisweck; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. John Winter, Mrs. D. J. Twomey, Mr. and Mrs. Miss Aitken, Mr. and Mrs. E. Falconer, Mrs. Scott Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Berry, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. McArthur, Mr. and Mrs. I. Aryandrino, Mr. and Miss Redmay, Messrs. Moran, J. B. Godkin, A. Peres, G. W. Langford and D. C. Parley.

Per *Gloucester City*, Mr. Robert E. Miller.

Per *Coptic*, from San Francisco, Dr. P. E. Wagar, Messrs. P. E. Dudley and Eugene Uselhardt; from Yokohama, Capt. and Mrs. J. D. S. Hartman, Major and Mrs. Beresford Ash, Majora A. J. Vanrenen and B. E. Cheyne, Capt. H. O. S. Cadogan, Messrs. W. G. Maevicar, T. C. Gray and M. F. Lowenstein; from Kobe, Messrs. J. J. Gomez and A. J. Gomez; from Nagasaki, Mrs. E. Morrison and Mr. W. W. Plum; from Shanghai, Miss I. Christian, Messrs. H. Locksmith, A. W. Newton, J. Derbyshire, J. Morreau, Forot de Prantenf, T. A. Hurley and Louis Tartas.

Per *Sachsen*, from Singapore, Messrs. J. T. A. van Dreveltd, F. van Dorssen, C. Brandt, R. M. Yeager and G. A. Morse.

Per *Hamburg*, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. de Bengny, Col. and Mrs. Lewin, Mrs. Johnston, Rev. H. Stevens, Messrs. G. H. Daun, G. A. Castillo, M. B. Cohen, K. Takizawa, L. Logan, C. Schlumbohm, A. Essabbay.

Per *Bombay*, from Hongkong, from London, Sub-Lieut. H. Leigh, Midshipman D. J. McGillaws, Naval Cadets P. A. Warre, A. L. Fletcher, and L. B. Clare and Engineer H. Williams; from Singapore, Colonel A. Howlett.

Per *Kanagawa Maru*, from Yokohama, for Hongkong, Messrs. A. Nagata, S. Okuto, A. S. Hay, J. H. Barton, J. W. Newby, M. Ross, Inonye, A. Alex and G. Monghanwell; for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. H. Y. Bellaney, Messrs. T. Yonei, D. Gilchrist, and R. R. Mohetobain; for Penang, Mr. and Mrs. Y. Kehding; for Colombo, Mr. C. Hartmann; for Europe, Messrs. T. Kano, R. Cass, C. Houghton, Iwai, S. Kimma, D. Noguchi, Inose, Murai, G. Enomura, Hatome, Tsunoda, J. B. Barclay and Lieut. Saigo.

DEPARTED.

Per *Chusan*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Mr. G. Mudge; for Colombo, Mr. J. T. Merecki; for Bombay, Mr. R. B. Bhogata; for Gibraltar, Mr. Kellermann; for London, Mr. and Mrs.

Taylor and two children, Messrs. W. Skille, Pentecost and Burns; from Shanghai, for Brindisi, Mr. P. P. Borne.

Per *Rosetta Maru*, from Hongkong, for Manila, Mrs. K. M. Cooney, Mrs. M. Botelko and child, Mrs. J. B. Aleshire and three children, Mrs. M. D. Cheatham, Miss M. H. Cummings, Miss L. Remedios, Messrs. B. C. Green, N. O. Noak, F. L. Hemming, V. Hausmann, F. Aurecochea, O. de Churrua, Wm. Rigby, Y. Nishimura, T. Hayashi and M. Miyasaki.

Per *Tartar*, from Hongkong, for Amoy, Mr. J. J. Dunne; for Shanghai, Messrs. Coggin, G. Legg, W. J. Southam, A. H. Mabel and J. B. de Silva; for Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. W. Curtis; for Yokohama, Capt. G. Duff, Messrs. A. Watson, C. D. Hitchins, E. R. Halifax, H. A. E. George and J. C. Corley; for San Francisco, Miss Lillian White; for London, Lieut.-Col. W. A. Mawson and Mr. A. G. Halifax; from Yokohama, for Seattle, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Shilling.

Per *Loongsang*, for Manila, Capt. J. Bordmann, Rev. F. George, Messrs. F. S. Cairns, W. E. Pulliam, S. Daniel, Pablo Logan, M. George, M. Olson and J. C. Wood.

Per *Peru*, from Hongkong, for Yokohama, Miss Wherett; for San Francisco, &c., Mrs. Boggs and infant, Mrs. Downs, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Swindle, Misses A. L. Voorman, H. A. Du Bois and Wilson and Rev. S. A. D. Boggs.

Per *Empress of India*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mrs. Betty Routh, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. C. Master, Miss Mesney, Comdr. A. S. Booth, Messrs. W. R. Rieher, L. Boutinon and C. D. Wilkimon; for Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. N. M. Watson and infant and Mr. Jose A. Correll; for Yokohama, Mrs. Geo. Zeller, Mr. and Mrs. N. Mumford and child, Miss F. E. Bart, Major H. T. Allen, Lieut. C. L. Bland, Capt. Stevenson and Mr. E. J. Moses; for Vancouver, Mr. Arthur Guise; for San Francisco, Mrs. J. G. Workezer and Miss F. V. Guilbert; for Chicago, Mrs. S. E. Lee and Mr. P. P. Farnham, Jr.; for Minneapolis, Minn., Rev. Homer Wroten; for Kingston Jamaica, Mr. Joseph Chen; for London, Mr. and Mrs. R. Giles, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Skeffingtons, Dr. and Mrs. E. G. Herder, Mrs. T. E. Sanson, Consul and Mrs. Holland, Miss A. L. Cousins, Comdr. Orpen, R. N., Major Kna'chbull, Col. L. J. Wheeler, A.O.D., Messrs. T. Sercombe Smith, J. M. Beattie, S. T. Cargill, C. H. C. Bickenton and T. C. Hutchins; from Yokohama, for Vancouver, Mr. H. Peck; for Seattle, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Schilling; for New York, Misses Lea and Moulden; for London, Miss G. E. MacDonald, Capt. Bunbury, Messrs. S. E. Whitewall, V. C. Vickers and E. MacDonald.

Per *Eastern*, for Australia, &c., Mrs. Fonseca, Mrs. J. J. C. Watson, Mrs. and Master Woodley, Mrs. James Reed, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. De Ath, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Rae, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Carter, Rev. D. and Mrs. Arthur, Misses Santos Warren and Ducker (2), Messrs. J. W. and W. R. Groves, B. H. Ducker, J. Macauley, Ramsden, B. Baldwin, E. Fenwick, T. H. Phelps, C. H. Smith, E. Calder, C. Delgado, F. F. Leitao and J. J. Moorhead.

Per *Yawata Maru*, for Japan, Mr. and Mrs. Arijandrino, Mr. and Mrs. Aitken, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Ross and child, Mr. and Mrs. S. V. del Rozarios, Mr. and Mrs. MacArthur, Mr. and Mrs. Winder, Mr. and Mrs. Falconer, Mr. and Mrs. H. Berry, Mrs. and Miss Deacon, Mrs. Scott Hunter, Misses Aitken, Adcock and Marumi, Messrs. Wentworth, Godkin, Adcock, Moran, Twomey, Omike, Morita, L'alley, Langford and Peres.

Per *Hamburg*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Messrs. Strehlow, W. H. McHugh, M. B. Cohen, J. Bitterberg and J. Thomson; for Colombo, Mr. A. B. Cassani; for Genoa, Messrs. V. Mahler, Th. W. Vogelgesang, P. Crepiet and F. P. Musso; for London, Mrs. Shepherd; for Hamburg, Mrs. Henrichsen, Miss A. Beckmann, Messrs. A. Gehle and C. Turp.

Per *Sachsen*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. von Hoyer, Messrs. R. von Bergen and J. H. Gubbins; for Nagasaki, Rev. E. Dewstoe; for Hiogo, Mr. T. Rushmore; for Yokohama, Mrs. C. Jertrum.

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